

BLOCKHOUSES
AND
MILITIAMEN
OF THE
"FIRE LANDS"
IN THE
WAR-OF-1812

*Including the "Indian" massacres and battles;
and the local men who participated in those battles,
and the many prior myths about them.*

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(reformatted / revised 2024)



This is the upper portion of a map presumably drawn by surveyor Almon Ruggles* in 1808 (and printed by Amos Doolittle in 1809) --- but newly appended here to illustrate the main points-of-interest relating to the War-of-1812 (and the main interconnecting trails and "roads").

The area of present-day Huron County has been omitted above, because most of the local events of that time-period, occurred within the area which later became Erie County.

(Present-day Erie County was within the prior boundaries of original 'Huron County' until circa-1838. The Danbury, or Marblehead, Peninsula is now within Ottawa County.)

The area to the immediate east of the above illustration, was also within geographical '**Huron County**' during the War-of-1812 (although the only pioneer settlers residing in that easterly section before 1812, lived in the Black River Twp. area of later-day Lorain County).

[The area to the immediate west of this map, was still the "Indian Lands".]

(all sites are approx.)

A - FLAMAND'S INDIAN-TRADING-POST (a.k.a. "FLAMMOND", "FLEMING", etc.)

B - RUSSELL'S BLOCKHOUSE, TAVERN & GENERAL-STORE

C - "ABBOT SETTLEMENT" [& later "old county-seat"]

D - PARKER'S BLOCKHOUSE

E - "PIPE CREEK SETTLEMENT" & "FORT LIBERTY"

F - "COLD CREEK SETTLEMENT" & MASSACRE of the SNOW and BUTLER families.

G - MURDER of BUEL and GIBBS

H - PARSONS' BLOCKHOUSE & "FIRST" AMBUSH on the PENINSULA

1 (star) - FORT HURON ("FORT NONSENSE")

2 (star) - FORT AVERY

3 (arrow) - "ROAD" to 'LOWER SANDUSKY' & DETROIT

4 (arrow) - "OLD STATE ROAD" to MANSFIELD

[*- Ruggles had not yet surveyed Sandusky Bay in 1808, but he estimated it, based on prior surveyors' very inaccurate work).
(Nor were the river or stream courses yet surveyed to the misleading degree estimated on that map.)]

Preface.

There are many current myths about the "Fire Lands" during the War-of-1812.

One common myth, was that several pioneer villages existed here prior to the year 1812 --- entirely due to a simple misunderstanding of an alternate meaning of the word 'town'.

The geographical boundaries which are now called 'Townships', were instead called "towns" by the former New Englanders who first settled here. (Some U.S. States still use the designation of 'Town', not 'Township'.) That usage of the word 'town' continued for decades afterward by many 19th-century Ohio historians, long after the State of Ohio had adopted the official designation of 'Township'. But by the 20th-century, later historians began to misinterpret that past local usage of the word "town", as instead meaning 'village'.

However, prior to the War-of-1812, there were no pioneer villages here within the entire boundaries of original 'Huron County'. During those first settlement years, there were just scattered farm residences. Any group of several farms which were relatively nearby each other, were known, literally, as "settlements". But even within each "settlement", the nearest neighbors were often a considerable walking-distance away from each other.

The first actual pioneer village in all of original 'Huron County', was the "old county-seat" village. Its construction began circa-1814 (and it was abandoned just a few years later). It was located about 3 miles northeast of present-day Milan village, and on present-day River Road. Several misconceptions have evolved about that first village -- including an erroneous assumption that it had already existed at the same time as "Fort Avery", in 1812. But, in truth, despite the fact that in 1811 the exact site was chosen for the village, and the land itself was immediately surveyed and 'platted' --- but because of the impending war, no construction, nor any inhabitation, began within the surveyed site until circa-1814. Therefore, that village wasn't physically begun until at least one year after the military had vacated Fort Avery.

Some historians had also asserted that those two sites were adjacent to each other; but Fort Avery was actually over a mile south of the site of the future village.

It is also often said that both sites were built along the "old State road". But at that time, the true "old" State road there, ran along the eastern boundary-line of Milan Twp. (originally named "Avery" Twp.), which instead corresponds to present Wikel Road, not River Road.

Another common historical error was that this village was named "Avery". However, the "old county-seat" village, itself, was never officially named "Avery" during its actual existence (of less than ten years). Later historians had simply misunderstood the earlier references to the "*town of Avery*", but which (as explained above) instead meant the entire Township of Avery. The true name of the old county-seat village was 'Huron' village. Technically it was called the "*town plat of Huron, in the town of Avery*" ("town plat", meaning 'village').

Unfortunately, that village's name, '*Huron*', inevitably caused that first village to be confused, historically, with the different, later, Huron Village (which was established circa-1824 at the mouth of the Huron River).

In some War-of-1812 documents, it can be difficult to determine if the word "*Huron*" refers to the 'County', or the 'Township'; or simply the 'River' itself (or sometimes even Lake Erie's other '*Huron*' River, in Michigan). A similar caution applies to the usage of the word '*Sandusky*', in those early documents; "*Sandusky*" often meant 'Lower Sandusky' (later-day Fremont, Ohio). [The present-day City of Sandusky ("Portland") was not established until circa-1816.]

Another caution: a common habit of historians was using only later place-names when writing about past locations, even if that later 'place' did not exist at the 'past' time.

(For example, the "Pipe Creek settlement" of Oxford Twp., is sometimes called "*Bloomingtonville settlement*"; but see the separate page about the War-of-1812 "Fort Liberty", which the pioneer settlers built there, before the village of Bloomingtonville existed there.)

[See the Appendix, for more information about all of the above.]

Even the name "*Fire Lands*" is often misunderstood to mean that numerous Connecticut families had moved here after their homes had been burned by the British during the Revolutionary War. But the truth is, that almost all of those Connecticut "*Fire Sufferers*" had merely received a small share of the money made from the collective sale of these lands (sold to land-speculators; who afterward resold the land to the pioneers). Many of the settlers who arrived here before 1812, relocated from eastern-Ohio. And also: NY, PA, CT, and Canada. (And by the time of their arrival --- "Huron County" had technically superseded the "*Fire Lands*".)

Here is the record of the men of those families who settled here prior to 1812, and their direct contribution to this area's defense, just prior to, and during that War.

Local-militia companies of (old) "HURON COUNTY"; and the Ohio Militia.

Although not emphasized by many historians, but there was a significant difference between the local-militia of Ohio, in contrast to the Ohio Militia after the declaration of war, 1812. The difference is particularly important in regard to the first militiamen of (old) 'Huron County'. (*Huron County* was formed geographically in 1809; see the Appendix.)

The local-militia can best be described as "pre-military"; and all able-bodied men of a certain age, were required to participate in their own County's local-militia training. And although they were all technically part of the "Ohio Militia", however, their individual participation in that local-militia training, was not the same as the later official enrollments and enlistments. But in 1812 -- in anticipation of war -- many of the militia-companies throughout the State of Ohio, were called into official military service. (Several counties in Ohio were exempted due to being remote, and adjacent to Ohio's "Indian Lands".)

But that did not mean that every militiaman who had participated in their local-militia training, was automatically enrolled into these newly-official military companies; but those who did volunteer, were assigned specific enrollment-periods. The '*Ohio Militia*', after declaration of war, might more appropriately be called the "Ohio Military".

The local-militia companies of 'Huron County' were apparently also allowed an exemption from collective enrollment into that State of Ohio official military service in 1812, due to their remote location here (and being so very nearby the '*Indian Lands*').

Therefore, although the civilian "local-militia" participation by these men is certainly important to local history, but their participation in the following local-militia companies did not entitle them to "official military" status and honors. (However, a few of these civilian "militiamen" of 'Huron County' later individually enlisted into official military-companies of other Counties of Ohio.)

The names of the local-militia companies here in 1812 (based upon original-sources), were:

- **CAPT. HIRAM RUSSELL'S COMPANY** of Huron Twp. (although that Company seems to have been the true "statutory" militia-training company for the entire "Huron County" area.)
- **CAPT. CHARLES PARKER'S COMPANY** of 'Avery' Twp. (Milan Twp.)
- **CAPT. SETH HARRINGTON'S COMPANY** of Oxford Twp.

And based on other historical clues, these were potentially also civilian

local-militia captains for the other township areas, in the Spring of 1812:

- William Austin or Almon Ruggles, in 'Vermillion' Twp.
- George Brooks or John Brooks Sr., in 'Jesup' Twp. (Florence Twp.)
- John Hoak, in 'Eldredge' Twp. (Berlin Twp.)
- David Barrett, in the "Abbot settlement" on the north-east side of 'Avery' Twp.
- "Major" Parsons or Joseph Ramsdell, on the Danbury (Marblehead) Peninsula.
- Frederick Falley, in 'Patterson' Twp. (Margaretta Twp.)

[and, (ex-Canadian) "Capt." Sprague, and his "Huron Rangers" (the "teen boys militia")]

- **CAPT. JOSEPH QUIGLEY'S COMPANY** was newly formed in late-Aug. 1812, by some of the men from each of the above units, after Hull's surrender of Detroit and the local mass-evacuation immediately afterward. (The civilian militiamen of Capt. Joseph Quigley's Company of 1812, were eventually nominated for special recognition.)

Because those (civilian) local-militia companies of original 'Huron County' seem to have been granted an exemption from "official military" service, their muster records may have only been kept locally, and were never preserved. (However, the complete list of Capt. Joseph Quigley's Company, presumably still exists somewhere among U.S. Congressional papers, thanks to Rep. John Sherman's attempts to officially honor Quigley's group of civilian militiamen for their true "military" contributions to this local area.)

The following pages detail each of the above local-militia companies.

{ **Source-references** are from various issues of the '*Fire Lands Pioneer*' series* (published by the Firelands Historical Society); and **other original-sources** as quoted. (*The earliest issues of the '*Fi. Pios.*' contain many memoirs written by the actual eye-witnesses of these events of the War-of-1812.) }

Hiram Russell's "blockhouse", tavern, store, and shipyard.

Hiram Russell's contributions to this area's early defense, were overlooked by many later historians (some of whom even slandered him as having built ships "for the British" during the War of 1812).

Hiram Russell arrived to Huron Twp. circa-1809, probably coming from a brief residency in eastern Ohio. He established a combination general-store, tavern, and home, on the east side of the Huron River, about one mile from its mouth. The various descriptions of his large multipurpose "blockhouse"-style residence, are interesting. One reference says it was "*a great rambling structure six or seven rods [between 99 to 115 ft.] in length. The old outside door was of double thickness studded closely with rivets.*" Another source oddly called it a "*two story*" log cabin "*with both stories on the ground*"; but also said that this "*double log cabin was quite an 'institution' in the early days of Huron County. It was a sort of Town Hall for a very large section of the country.*"

Circa-1811, Russell was hoping to expand his store business into the quickly growing village of Cleveland, and he planned to have his assistant, Chas. P. Barnum, run that Cleveland store. Correspondence written by C.P. Barnum during that time-period, details some of Russell's other business-ventures at that time, including Russell's shipbuilding.

Based on that original-correspondence (dated '1811', and '1814'):
In 1811, Hiram Russell, in partnership with Stephen Meeker and Frederick Falley, had completed construction of a schooner "*calculated to rate about 80 tons*", along the Huron River. (Meeker, a blacksmith by trade, probably was also in charge of any iron-work for that vessel. Several additional local men were hired to help build it.)

The further history of that 1811 schooner, is unknown, although it might have been purchased by one of the North American fur-trading companies operating on the Upper Great Lakes; and therefore, a year later, in 1812, might simply have been commandeered by the British military, at the beginning of the war. Alternately, that vessel may just as likely have been used by the U.S. military, because Russell's business partner, Frederick Falley, was a supply-contractor for the U.S. army -- therefore, Russell probably was, also.

In December, 1814, Russell was in a new partnership with William Austin of Vermillion Twp., and they were nearly finished building two more vessels of about 50 tons load-capacity --- one on the Huron River, and another near the Vermilion River. But by the time those two vessels were completed, the war had ended. Those later two vessels probably went into peacetime civilian use, upon the Great lakes.

The official maritime names of Russell's vessels are not certain. A memoir published in the 1863 issue of the '*Fire Lands Pioneer*', attributed the name of the 1811 ship, as the "*Croghan*"; and it also states that "*Russell built a second vessel, the Fair American, which he completed in the Spring of 1812 or '13. This vessel was sold to, or built for, the British government, being delivered to the agents at Buffalo immediately after her completion.*" But the statement "*for the British government*" is completely contrary to the fact that there was a constant U.S. military presence on the Huron River at that time.

Surely that 1863 author instead meant to say "built for the U.S. government". And therefore, this ship probably indeed was "delivered to Buffalo" (Buffalo of course being a U.S. military post, not British). Every available American vessel upon Lake Erie was being utilized or purchased directly by the U.S. military, during the war. In fact, in 1812 the U.S. military itself was even building smaller scow-type boats on the Huron River, upriver, near Fort Avery. So if Russell's ship was "delivered to Buffalo", it was probably intended to be used by Commodore Perry's naval forces.

The 1863 author may have also been mistaken about the name of at least one of Russell's vessels. A different ship officially named '*Fair American*' seems to have been built earlier, upon Lake Ontario, and by someone else. And although there was a known ship '*Croghan*' which sailed Lake Erie, but it was recorded to have been built circa-1814. Unfortunately, it is currently impossible to track the further history of Russell's ships built on the Huron River during the War-of-1812, without verification of their official maritime names.

{The C.P. Barnum letters are in the Zalmon Wildman 'papers' at the R.B.Hayes Library, Fremont. }

CAPT. HIRAM RUSSELL's local-militia 'Company'.

Even if it was simply an overlooked type-setter error, the '*Fire Lands Pioneer*' 1863 memoir of Huron Twp., ultimately slandered Hiram Russell, by implying that he was a traitor to the U.S.A. during the War of 1812.

Instead, Hiram Russell should receive high honors, for his very patriotic actions here, which included being the captain of the 'head' local-militia company of "Huron County".

Hiram Russell's blockhouse-tavern was said to be the "*headquarters for all military operations. Frequent war meetings were held there in 1812, to devise means and organize for defense.*" That was according to an interview with Wm. B. Smith circa-1865.

(That same interview states that a militia-company was formed there: the "*Huron Rangers*"; although not an official designation, but just a nickname. Smith also stated that a "*Capt. Sprague*" was the first elected captain of that militia-group. Unfortunately, later historians confounded Smith's words, by attributing David Barrett as the captain of the "*Huron Rangers*". But see the page for 'Eldredge' Twp. for the truth about "Capt. Sprague's Huron Rangers". }

It was actually Hiram Russell who was the captain of his own (civilian) local-militia unit, mustered there in April of 1812. Russell was also commanding this same militia-company when they pursued the "Indians" named Omick and Semo (the murderers of Buel and Gibbs, on Apr. 3, 1812) as is evidenced from this letter (written by local-resident John Hoyt Patch):

"Danbury, Ohio, April 8, 1812"..."a Company of twenty-five men, under the command of Capt. Russell of Huron [Twp.], [are] going to scour the peninsula in pursuit of the Indians who had committed the murders. They tarried here [Danbury Peninsula] all night, and set out early this morning. They were joined here by six young men, which made in the whole, a Company of thirty-one completely armed with musquets, rifles, tomahawks and knives. They marched by platoons, seven rods distant from each other; and have gone up to Carrying [Portage] river, from thence they are to proceed on to the Miami of the Lakes [Maumee River], and then return back to this place. The Company under Capt. Russel's command, has separated into two parties. One of these, under the command of his lieutenant, had gone up the other side of the bay, had taken some Indians, and sent them to Huron [Twp.], where they now remain as prisoners[*]." [*- apparently not the actual killers, because John Omick was said to have been captured the following day (Apr. 9); and Semo a bit later (although Semo managed to escape, and suicided).]

The name of that lieutenant of **Capt. Hiram Russell's Company** was not mentioned in that letter; and no muster-rolls are known to exist which list the exact membership of his Company. But in April of 1812, potential members who lived nearest to him, were: (alpha.)

- Isaac ALLEN / ALLYN • Azariah BEEBE • Mr. BENTON • James "CONERVAY"
- Alvin COE • Daniel CURTIS • Jeremiah DANIELS • George DeZANG • John DELGARNE
- Cyrus DOWNING • Stephen DOWNING • "John" Baptiste FLAMAND* • Banks FINCH
- Francis KEYES / KEESE • William MORRISON • Alfred RUGGLES • Asa SMITH
- Jonathan SPRAGUE • Hawley TANNER • Abijah and Asahel TAYLOR / TYLER
- Isaac TILLOTSON • Phineas TILLOTSON • Mr. (John?, Abner?) YOUNG • John WHEELER
- Jabez WRIGHT. (those being all the known male heads-of-household living within Huron

Township about year 1812. Some of their sons may have been old enough to join, also).

[Other nearby, potential members of Capt. Hiram Russell's Company, are on the next page.]

• **Daniel BUEL** and **Michael GIBBS** (the men killed by Omick and Semo) were probably also enrolled in this 'Company'. { Their murder is described in '*Fire Lands Pioneer*', Sept.1860, p.46. }

*- Jean B. Flamand, (later known as "John B. Fleming"), was a (civilian) advisor and "Indian-interpreter" for the military. (He was the first true pioneer-settler, circa-1804, of the entire "Fire Lands". His cabin and "Indian-trading-post" was about 2 miles from the Huron River's mouth.) ['*Flamand*' is his own spelling. Often misspelled "Flammond", which historians subverted to "Flemmond".]

Additional note: Although Hiram Russell was not a commissioned 'captain' of those local men, but in Feb.-May, 1813, a commissioned captain named Hiram Russell commanded an official Ohio Militia Company consisting of most of the former men of Capt. Jed. Burnham's Company (of Ashtabula, Geauga, and Portage Counties). That Captain Hiram Russell seems to be this same (Major*) Hiram Russell of Huron Twp.; but more research is needed.

(*- Early local-histories refer to him as "Major" Hiram Russell, but how and when he acquired the title of 'Major' is currently undetermined; but presumably while in another State's militia -- and probably not during the Revolutionary War, because he seems to have been born after 1775.)

"CAPT.", LIEUT. DAVID BARRETT.

David Barrett, of the "Abbot settlement" in Avery Twp. (Milan Twp.), is often credited by historians as being the captain of a local-militia company, "*in the Spring of 1812*". His brother-in-law, F.W. Fowler, states exactly that in his own various later memoirs. But no circa-1812 documentation seems to exist, to corroborate Fowler's assertion.

However, local historians expanded upon that assertion in the 20th-century, when Barrett's later "military headstone" (erected in 1939 by the local D.A.R.) was inscribed with the words: "*Captain, Huron Rangers*". But in fact, no known records of the 1800s, associate Barrett specifically with the "Huron Rangers" militia-company, and certainly not as their captain "in the Spring of 1812". (See 'Eldredge' Twp. for the truth about the "Huron Rangers".)

Perhaps David Barrett was instead the captain of his own, different, local-militia company -- unless F.W. Fowler's later memories were simply in error --- perhaps Barrett was never actually a local-militia 'captain' at all, but was instead the '*lieutenant*' of Capt. Hiram Russell's Company, (it being this entire County's 'head' local-militia company).

But if Barrett was truly the (civilian) captain of his own separate local-militia company, "*in the Spring of 1812*", then his own militia-company would probably have been composed of the other (civilian) men in the vicinity of the "Abbot settlement":

- David ABBOT • Abijah BAKER • A. COLLINS • S. DURAND • Frederick W. FOWLER
- Nathaniel GLINES • Ebenezer HAYES • Seth HAYES • Alexander MASON* • Jared WARD
- Joab WOODRUFF • Stephen WORTHINGTON; also possibly others a bit farther distant:
- J., and L., HARVEY • Thos. JEFFERY • James LEACH • Hosmer MERRY • Reuben PIXLEY
- Elijah POLLOCK • William POLLOCK • Josiah SMITH • Tinker R. SMITH • William SMITH

But at least some of those men were probably instead in Capt. Chas. Parker's Company (see next page). (Technically, most of those men were probably 'mustered' into Capt. Russell's Company.)

* - In Sept., 1812, Alexander Mason accompanied Capt. Cotton's Ohio Militia troops to the Danbury Peninsula; and Mason was killed in the 'Skirmish' there. (The U.S. Congress granted a government pension to his widow in 1818, to help her support their six children.)

Later, some of those same men joined *Capt. Joseph Quigley's Company*, in Aug., 1812. And a few of them (such as Luther Harvey) eventually enlisted into official military-companies from other Counties, and they transferred elsewhere, as did David Barrett.

[Another possibility about David Barrett's potential local-militia company, is that "Captain" Barrett, after he had shortly-later enlisted into an official military-company, he was perhaps replaced by Capt. Charles Parker. In which case, for additional potential members of "Capt." Barrett's Company, see Capt. Chas. Parker's Company, on the next page.]

Although David Barrett was said to have been, additionally, the elected "lieutenant" of Capt. Quigley's militia-company in Aug. 1812; **but, at about that same time**, Barrett is proven as officially enlisting as a 'private' in Capt. Ichabod Nye's "Light Horse Company", of Knox Co. And, also **much more important to Barrett's true military career**, was his eventual enlistment in Capt. Delanne Mills' Company, and under the command of Major William Cotgreave (of the Battle of Mackinaw). While serving under Cotgreave, **Barrett became an official army Lieutenant**. Barrett's further combat history might be very interesting. He is known to have fought at the Battle of Mackinaw (and, perhaps he was seriously wounded, or even killed there). Some sources indicate that David Barrett died in 1814 (the same year as the Battle of Mackinaw); other sources say '1815'.

So, although it may or may not be true that David Barrett was a "*Captain*" of his own (civilian) local-militia company for a few months; however, it was actually his official service, especially as a '*Lieutenant*', which is much more noteworthy, militarily.

[David Barrett's potential "local-militia" (non-official) service was later honored in 1939 when the local D.A.R. sponsored a headstone-type marker for him, at the old "*county-seat*" memorial-site on present River Rd. in Milan Twp.; but this site is not an actual cemetery, and his true place of burial was undetermined. (Note: this 1939 D.A.R. "cenotaph" omits his service as an official military lieutenant; and the inscribed death year of "1814" needs verified.)]

{ See more about additional local-D.A.R. memorial-stones, on a separate page. }

CAPT. CHARLES PARKER's local-militia company, and PARKER'S BLOCKHOUSE.

Circa-1810, Charles Parker and his family had settled about 2 miles west of present-day Milan village. By 1812, this "Parker settlement" area still remained very sparsely populated, with only about 4 or 5 families within its immediate vicinity.

All of these families temporarily fled after Hull's surrender of Detroit in August, 1812. Shortly afterward, Charles Parker and some members of his own (civilian) local-militia company had returned to 'Huron County', and began constructing this blockhouse.

Charles' brother, Capt. Clark Parker, commanded an official Ohio Militia unit from Geauga County --- so Charles requested that his brother's troops be briefly stationed here at his farm, to assist with installing fortifications around this blockhouse, and they arrived at the end of August 1812. However, the military troops of Capt. Clark Parker's Company were re-positioned just a few days later, to help construct the lakeshore fort at 'Camp Huron'. But after the completion of the lakeshore fort by about Sept. 9th, they came back to finish fortifying this community-blockhouse at Charles Parker's farm. (See note at bttm.)

The enlistment-periods for most of Capt. Clark Parker's men expired by about Oct. 2nd, (and some were discharged early, due to severe illness), and they all returned to eastern Ohio.

By that time, Charles Parker and his own family began to occupy this blockhouse for the duration of the War. And some of the other nearby settler families returned by Spring of 1813, to begin planting crops on their farms, while also occupying this blockhouse.

In addition to this blockhouse being built for the self-defense of the local settlers, it was presumably also occasionally the overnight-quarters for a few of the discharged Ohio troops traveling past it, on their way back to their eastern-Ohio or central-Ohio homes --- in fact, Parker's barn was said to be the winter stables for several horses owned by some "army officers of Fort Meigs", in early 1813. Local-militiaman Daniel Sherman later recollected, that it was an extremely snowy winter that year, and these horses were "borrowed" (without their owners' permission), by the local occupants of the blockhouse, who utilized them for sleigh-rides in January through March of 1813. (By that date, all of the troops which had been stationed at Fort Avery, had already mobilized westward.)

It is uncertain exactly when **Capt. Charles Parker's Company** was first formed/mustered, but perhaps in April 1812. There seems to be no complete list of the members of this (civilian) local-militia company, but their lieutenant was said to be: • **David SMITH**.

Other known members who manned the blockhouse, were: • **Reuben PIXLEY, Sr.**

• **Samuel SEYMOUR*** • **Daniel SHERMAN** • **Lester** and **Nathan STRONG**.

Additional potential civilian militiamen, living near the "Parker settlement" in 1812, were:

• **George COLVIN** • **Abijah COMSTOCK** (of Norwalk Twp.) • **Jonathan ELDREDGE**
• **James GUTHRIE** and his sons **David** and (Dr.) **Anslem** • **Diadymus KINNEY** • **Elijah KINNEY**
• **Stephen KINNEY** • **Rev. Green PARKER** • **Winslow PERRY** (and perhaps some of his sons).

Some of those men may have instead been members of other local-militia companies. (Technically, they were probably 'mustered' into Capt. Russell's Company.) A few of them may have later enlisted into official military-companies from other Counties, and transferred elsewhere during the War.

Several of those men (including the Guthries) were also later members of Capt. Joseph Quigley's Company in Sept. and Oct., 1812.

* - In November, 1812, Samuel Seymour (about age 18) and Reuben Pixley, Jr. (age 15) went out from Parker's Blockhouse, to gather provisions, and while attempting to retrieve some honey from a "bee tree", they were ambushed by "Indians".

Sam Seymour was killed. Pixley was taken prisoner and ransomed in Detroit. (He later moved to Sandusky County, where he died at age 33.)

[Note: some later histories have attributed the military troops of Capt. Clark Parker, as being sent here to specifically build Fort Avery. But, although Clark's troops had initially been sent here in late August, 1812, to help Clark's brother Charles fortify his community-blockhouse --- however (obviously), Capt. Clark Parker's Company's main purpose was to build Fort Huron on the lakeshore. The military decision to have them build another fort (*Fort Avery*) a few miles downriver from Charles Parker's blockhouse, wasn't made until mid-September, 1812 --- and by that time, many of the men in Capt. Clark Parker's unit had become extremely sick (just like other incoming troops), and many of them were unable to perform any duties at all.]

{ See more about the military's "Fort Huron" and "Fort Avery", on another page here. }

CAPT. SETH HARRINGTON'S COMPANY, and "FORT LIBERTY".

In June of 1812, Oxford Township's "Pipe Creek settlement" began building a blockhouse for use as an emergency shelter, centrally located to their farms. (This blockhouse, and the fort later constructed around it, was the beginning of the village of Bloomingville. The village was quickly established there at the end of the War.)

During the next two months, until Hull's surrender of Detroit, this blockhouse was used as a community-center by most of the settlers of the western side of 'Huron County'. After being notified of that surrender, the local settlers all met in this blockhouse, and they all agreed that they should temporarily relocate to other distant, and safer, portions of Ohio. They quickly packed their wagons and started on their journeys.

But they had traveled only a few miles when they were suddenly alerted that British ships full of "Indians" were landing at the Huron River. Immediate panic resulted, and some of these settlers even abandoned their possession-filled wagons, and fled on foot, carrying whatever they could.

However, the report of the shiploads of invading "Indians" was false. Instead they were actually the hundreds of Hull's paroled troops, which were being released onto the 'Huron County' shore, by the British -- but many of these incoming southern-Ohio troops arrived nearly naked (therefore resembling "Indians"), because the British had allowed the "Indians" at Detroit to plunder almost all of these troops' possessions, including their clothing.

Those paroled Ohio soldiers quickly caught up to some of the fleeing settlers before they had even crossed the southern 'Huron County' border --- so, their true identity was then discovered, which enabled some of these settlers to briefly return to their homes, to pack more thoroughly. Afterward, the "Pipe Creek settlement" was almost completely vacated; but shortly later, General Perkins utilized this single blockhouse as an encampment site for some of his Ohio Militia forces that were mobilizing westward.

Sometime prior to June of 1813, many of the "Pipe Creek settlers" slowly began to return, including some settlers to the nearby "Cold Creek settlement" (later-day Castalia village), and they started planting their farms. They probably felt reasonably secure with the presence of the Ohio military occupying other northwestern Ohio vicinities, including Fort Stephenson and Fort Meigs.

But their sense of security was short-lived.

A later statement (in 1857) by an unidentified local-resident, describes this event:

"On the 2nd day of June, A.D. 1813, the Indians in the employ of the British, attacked the settlement at the head of Cold Creek, and killed and took captive the Snow, Butler, and Putnam families, taking eight prisoners, and killing five."

[All of the victims were women and children, while all the men of that "Cold Creek settlement" were about a mile away, planting crops.] {For the gruesome details of that massacre (written by an eye-witness), see the 'Fire Lands Pioneer', Sept. 1860, p. 47.}

That same 1857 statement also says: ***"On the third day of June, all the males in the two settlements who were old enough and capable of bearing arms, volunteered and organized themselves into a regular military company"..."and they appointed Seth Harrington, Captain; and also appointed under-officers, and they built a fort" "into which fort, called Fort Necessity[?], they moved their families, and protected them and the surrounding country."..."General Harrison came to the fort and ordered us to complete the fort and remain therein, saying he would furnish us with arms and ammunition. All of our arms and part of our ammunition was furnished by him. A regular communication was kept up with Gen. Harrison, some of our men being at his fort, and some of his at ours, almost every day, and held themselves in readiness to act with him, and to obey his orders. Strict military discipline was kept up in said fort. The roll was called and scouts sent out daily, and a regular guard mounted every night. [This] fort was a stopping place for the mail on the line between Cleveland and Gen. Harrison's army, and in times of great danger, the mail remained there several days, and sometimes it was carried through to Fort Stevenson by some of Captain Harrington's men. On one occasion, the mail carrier got shot at, and returned to our fort for safety, and on the next day Harrington sent his men to guard it through."***

(more about the fort, on next page)

"Fort Liberty" (continued)

It was probably also during June of 1813, when the "Pipe Creek settlers" built several additional "blockhouse" homes within the fort. However, that 1857 author seems to be mistaken about the nickname, "Fort Necessity", as being the settlers' name for that fort; probably having later simply confused the name of that fort, with the true *Fort Necessity* of 1813 (but which was actually south of present-day Findlay, Ohio.)

But a journal written in 1813, by Capt. Robt. B. McAfee of Col. R.M. Johnson's Regiment from Kentucky, contains two separate entries which directly refer to the fort near Pipe Creek, specifically as "Fort Liberty":

"July 6th-early -- we made preparations to march from Lower Sandusky and started about 8 o'clock and crossed the Sandusky River, and for ten or twelve miles the road was bad and swampy with thick woods. Then a fine sandy road, prairies & open woods the balance of the road to Fort Liberty on Pipe creek, 25 miles from [Lower] Sandusky.

About 5 miles before we arrived at the fort, we found a few houses which had been deserted by their inhabitants on account of the Indians. My company encamped near the fort, between it and the creek, we were treated with friendship -- about fifteen families are in the fort -- Got corn for our horses."

And McAfee again mentions "Fort Liberty" when his troops passed back through, from their brief encampment which they had nicknamed "Camp Johnson" at the mouth of the Huron River, on their way back to Fort Stephenson: ***"July 14th-early -- as soon as we got something to eat we started, and got to Fort Liberty on Pipe creek about ten o'clock."***

There were a total of about **15** families residing within "Fort Liberty" in 1813 (as per that 1813 journal by McAfee). Some of the known (civilian) members of

Capt. Seth Harrington's Company, from June through Sept., 1813, were:

- **John DILLINGHAM** and his oldest son **Henry DILLINGHAM** • **James FORSYTHE**
- **Richard FOWLER** • **Samuel MAGILL Sr.** • **Daniel PUTNAM.**

And although Capt. Harrington's 'company' perhaps had been re-organized with reduced members in 1813, but he may have been first appointed the (civilian) Captain of his own local-militia company in 1812. The other potential civilian militiamen of his Company:

- **Hiram BLACKMAN** • **Benjamin DRAKE** • **Phineas DUNHAM** • **Peter DUNHAM**
- **S. DUNHAM** • **Linus ENSIGN** • **George FERGUSON** • **Rev. William GURLEY**
- **Thomas HAMILTON** • **Dr. Waitstill HASTINGS** • **Thomas JAMES** • **James McCORD**
- **John McCORD** • **John PAXTON** • **Asa SHERWOOD** • **George SPRAGUE**
- **Jonathan SPRAGUE Sr.** and **Jonathan SPRAGUE Jr.** • **Joseph STRONG**
- **Jasper WOOD** • **Nathan WOOD** • **Ruel WOOD** • **Lansford WOOD** • **Worthington WOOD.**

Other civilian militiamen in 1812 and 1813, living in the nearby "Cold Creek settlement" of 'Patterson' Twp. (Margaretta Twp.), would have been:

- **William ANDREWS / ANDRUS** • **Charles BUTLER** • **"Major" Frederick FALLEY**
- **Israel HARRINGTON** • **Thomas LORD** • **Horace and Samuel MARKHAM**
- **Uziel PUTNAM** • **Docartus SNOW** • **Charles WILSON.**

And also the following, from Perkins Twp. (although these men may have only been enrolled in Capt. Hiram Russell's Company): • **David CUMMINGS** • **Stephen RUSSELL**
• **Christian WINTERS** • **John "FREESE"** • **Mr. NASH.**

At least one of those men had later attempted to receive a military-pension for their service in Capt. Seth Harrington's Company; but was denied due to insufficient proof-of-service. (It is not currently determined if any others had successfully pensioned as members of that 'Company'.)

But any of those local men who can be verified to have been present there at "*Fort Liberty*" under Gen. Harrison's direct orders during June-Sept. in 1813, certainly now deserve "official military" recognition and honors. {The 1857 statement about Capt. Seth Harrington's Company and their fort, is from an unsigned document which seems to have been intended as a potential affidavit for an unidentified pensioner. The original copy of that document, is among the misc. 'papers' of the Harrington family, at the R.B. Hayes Presidential Library, Fremont, Oh. }

[Note: some later historians wrongly attributed the above Seth Harrington to have been a "Rev. War soldier, enlisted 1775" -- however, the Seth Harrington of Oxford Twp., was only age 4 in 1775 (he was born in 1771). The other, different, "Seth Harrington" of the Rev. War, presumably has no connection to this area of Ohio.]

The brief blockhouse on the Danbury (Marblehead) Peninsula.

Historically, the blockhouse on the Danbury Peninsula was sometimes attributed as built specifically by the Ramsdell family. But in truth, it was called "Parsons' Blockhouse", and it was not built on the Ramsdell farm. The construction of this blockhouse began in late-June, 1812, and was a community effort, built on the southeast side of the Peninsula, and presumably on Mr. ("Major") Parsons' farm.

But barely two months after being completed, this blockhouse was destroyed. A letter written from Fort Huron by Lieut. Benjamin Allen to his wife, on Sept. 12, 1812, details the destruction:

"I wrote you yesterday[*] respecting our situation, and stated that a party had gone out to explore the ground from which I retreated a few days ago on the other side of Sandusky Bay"... "the command was given to me, with S. G. Bushnel as my second. We started from the Huron [River] about dark; rowed and sailed all night. When we arrived at Sandusky [Bay], found the buildings on the Peninsula mostly on fire. Rowed in very near them, but did not think it prudent to land in the night. Next morning we again rowed in to the remains of the houses, but the landing being bad, thought best not to land; and immediately on our returning, before we were out of sight, the Indians set fire to two more houses. The block-house and all are burned."

But at least one cabin was left intact on this side of the Peninsula: the log-house which shortly later sheltered the dozens of men who fought the 'Skirmish on the Peninsula'. That "log cabin" probably belonged to Mr. Patterson, who seems to have been a consistent ally of the "Indians" -- and presumably therefore his home was not destroyed by them. (Despite later "historical" assertions, Benajah Wolcott's home was burned, according to an 1828 U.S. Congressional affidavit written by Wolcott, himself.) The Ramsdell's house was about 6 miles north-west of the other Danbury Peninsula settlers; and although it was not burned prior to the Sept.29th 'Skirmish', but it was not the structure that the stranded men of the 'Skirmish' used as their refuge near the shore of Sandusky Bay, and almost directly across from Bull's Island (Johnsons Island).

[*- Lieut. Allen's letter from the prior day, Sept. 11, was apparently not preserved; but his mention of "*the ground from which I retreated a few days ago*", refers to the 'first' ambush on the Peninsula about Sept. 7, 1812. (See separate pages for more about that 'first' ambush, and more about the shortly later, Sept.29th, 'Skirmish on the Peninsula'.)]

Because the residents on the Peninsula were isolated by water, (and many miles distant from the other local-militia companies of 'Huron County'), the men on the Peninsula probably had their own (brief) militia group. Their 'captain' may have been "Major Parsons" ("of Buffalo, NY"); although Joseph Ramsdell is historically called "*Captain Ramsdell*" (but perhaps only as a seaman's title).

According to E.W. Bull in June, 1812, there were supposed to be "25 or 30 men" residing on the Peninsula at that date, but their names are not all recorded.

Most of the civilian militiamen of that area would potentially have been:

• **George AUSTIN** • **George BENHAM** • **George BISHOP** • **Epaphras W. BULL**
• **Ezra LEE** (he was wounded in the 'Skirmish') • **Ephraim MIX** • **Elias K. OSBORNE**
• **J. Hoyt PATCH** • **Dr. PARK** • **"Major" PARSONS** • **Charles PECK** • **Joseph RAMSDELL**,
and his sons **John, Jacob, Horace, and Valentine*** • **Elijah ST. JOHN** • **Martin D. SAUNDERS**
• **Abiather SHIRLEY** • **James STEPHENS** • **Benajah WOLCOTT** • **John R. WOLSEY**
(and perhaps **Mr. STACEY**; and possibly, although unlikely, **Mr. [Hugh?] PATTERSON**).

*- Valentine Ramsdell (var. sp. "Ramsdale", etc.), age abt. 16 yrs., was killed in the Sept.29th 'Skirmish'. His father, Joseph, who also participated in that battle, was severely wounded. [Joseph's other sons John, Jacob, and Horace Ramsdell were apparently not present there that day, according to an eye-witness of that battle.]

Elijah St.John, of Buffalo, NY, seems to have been an employee of Ezra Lee or perhaps E.W. Bull (in Bull's several business-enterprises on 'Bull's Island'). Elijah was present during the "first" ambush on the Peninsula (about Sept. 7, 1812); but afterward, he returned to his home in Buffalo. In June, 1813, while on the Niagara River with a boat full of war supplies, he was drowned along with his father, Gamaliel St.John. (Shortly later, due to Elijah's mother being a widow with no living adult sons, the St.John home in Buffalo was among the only few houses spared from being burned by the British and "Indians" there, in Dec. 1813.)

[Note: many later historians wrongly stated that E.(Epaphras) W. Bull's first-name was "Epaphroditus".]

The "first" ambush on the Peninsula in 1812.

The story about the Skirmish on the Peninsula in late-Sept. of 1812, has been told extensively (although not always accurately) in local history, but the earlier ambush there (just a few weeks prior) is not often-reported.

Shortly after Hull's surrender of Detroit, several families from the Danbury Peninsula had sought temporary safety in Vermillion Twp. --- but about Sept. 5th, Joseph Ramsdell and his sons John and Horace, and at least three other local men, including Ezra Lee, Elijah St. John, and a man named "Putney", returned to the Peninsula in two large boats, to retrieve several tons of hemp (stored there by "*Thompson & Comp., of Buffalo, N.Y.*").

While sailing upon Lake Erie from eastern 'Huron County', they had spotted what appeared to be a British ship wrecked on the northern shore of Cunninghams (Kelleys) Island -- so they hurried into Sandusky Bay, in case there might be British still nearby.

The next day, after they had finished loading their two boats, they encountered a small detachment of Ohio soldiers from Fort Huron, which included Lieut. Benj. Allen and Pvt. Matthew Guy, who had just arrived by small boats to the Peninsula, to get provisions (including apples from an old "French orchard", there).

The Ramsdells informed the soldiers about the stranded British vessel; and so, Lieut. Allen asked John Ramsdell to take the soldiers to the island, in the Ramsdell's bigger sailing boat, because the soldiers' smaller boats were not suitable to venture out into Lake Erie's unpredictable waters, and potential enemy attack.

On the island's rocky shore, they found the large British schooner, completely abandoned and still aground, but they were unable to re-float it, so they set it afire to prevent the British from salvaging it.

- But, about Sept. 7th, when Lieut. Allen and his unit returned to the Peninsula, several men separated from the group; but they were quickly the victims of a surprise attack --- resulting in the deaths of Pvt. Matthew Guy, and "Putney".

The unseen attackers' identities were unknown, until about a month later when it was learned that the ambush had been committed by just a few "Indians" accompanied by several French-Canadians from the Lake Erie islands (including a Mr. "Jelley" and his son, who were themselves soon murdered -- supposedly by those same "Indians").

Pvt. Matthew Guy enlisted from Mahoning Co.; he had a wife, and at least one child.

- The exact identity of "Putney" isn't clear; but he may have been the (non-military) hired-man of E. W. Bull. However, a century later, in the 1930s, some members of the local-D.A.R. attributed that man ("Putney") to be the soldier "*Equilla PUNTNEY*" (a.k.a. Aquilla Punttenney) "*of Capt. Chancey Barker's Company, from Franklin Co. Ohio*"; because (to quote a 1930s D.A.R. member): "*this is the only man of that name [Putney] enrolled during the War of 1812, so we feel sure it is the one*". But that hunch was incorrect. In fact, the actual service-record of Aquilla Puntney (of Capt. Chancey Barker's Company, etc.), indicates that he did not die in 1812, but actually died in 1878 in Parke County, Indiana. (Nor was "Capt. Chancey Barker's Company" associated with these local events.)

And, in 1937, the local-D.A.R. sponsored a new monument-stone at the Peninsula's 'Skirmish' Memorial-site. But, based solely upon their 'hunch', they included the name "*Equilla Puntney*" also inscribed into it. (And shortly later, in 1941 the local-D.A.R. again sponsored a separate marker-plaque there, based upon another false hunch that this same Aquilla Puntney was additionally a "*Revolutionary War soldier*".)

As a result of that local-D.A.R. 1937 *memorial-stone* --- many stories written afterward about the 'Skirmish', wrongly include "*Equilla Puntney*" as a victim.

{ See the separate page about several other local-D.A.R. "hunch-stones". }

[Any source can potentially contain errors; but minor errors can turn significant when they are later re-written and re-worded. Unfortunately for the War-of-1812 time-period, the erroneous "re-writes" by historians in the later-1800s, were subsequently too often simply repeated or expanded by 20th-century historians, without careful preponderance of the actual *original* documentation.]

The militiamen from the eastern Townships of 'Huron County'.

During the War-of-1812, the Huron River was a virtual boundary-line within old 'Huron County'. The lands to the west of that River were easily accessible by the British military, and especially by any "Indians" that the British could entice into committing savage attacks against the settlers.

But the lands to the east of that River, were considered to be much safer from them. And although there is very little historical mention about the first local-militia companies from the townships fully east of that river, but participation in the local-militia training would also have been equally required from those men.

Technically, as per the general State regulations, none of these townships had enough men to form their own individual militia-companies. However, all of the settlement areas of 'Huron County' were so very far apart, that each area still had to be individually ready for emergence defense; therefore it can be presumed that each area had its own Company with its own appointed Captain.

-- Civilian militiamen of 'Vermillion' Township --

The earliest histories and memoirs about 'Vermillion' Twp. didn't record a public blockhouse in the eastern part of this township during the War-of-1812.

But the log-cabin home which Jeremiah VanBenschoter built in the far western area of this township's former boundaries, was said to be an occasional safe-haven "blockhouse" for passing travelers. However, the other settlers living within this township, almost all lived on its eastern side, about 8 miles distant from him --- and entirely in the wrong direction, for his log-cabin to be their community's designated blockhouse.

Instead, it was probably the very large log-cabin of Barlow Sturges (the ferry-man and inn-keeper near the mouth of the Vermilion River) which was the public refuge of most of the 'Vermillion' Twp. settlers. (The next eastwardly safe-haven from there, was John S. Reid's blockhouse near the Black River.)

'Vermillion' Twp. (double 'L', but now spelled with only one 'L') probably had its own separate local-militia company in 1812. Its (civilian) militiamen would have been most of the following residents:

- **William AUSTIN** (and his oldest sons **John** and **George**) • **Jonah BARTOW**
- **John BEARDSLEY Sr.** • **Benjamin BROOKS** (and his oldest son **Jonathan**)
- **James CUDDEBACH** • **Peter CUDDEBACH** • **William HODDY** • **Rufus JUDSON**
- **Solomon PARSONS** • **Horatio PERRY** • **Almon RUGGLES** • **John SHERRARTS** [SHEROD]
- **Geo. SHERRARTS** [SHEROD] • **Enoch SMITH** • **Barlow STURGES** • **Frederick STURGES**
- **Mr. WILCOX** • and possibly also **Francis KEYES** and **Jeremiah VanBENSCHOTER**.

(those being all the known male heads-of-households within the former boundaries of 'Vermillion' Twp. in 1812 --- although Keyes and VanBenschoter may have only been members of Capt. Hiram Russell's Company). [Technically, most of those men were probably 'mustered' into Russell's Company.]

Several of those men are known to have also later joined Capt. Joseph Quigley's Company, in Aug. 1812.

Note: some 20th-century historians had falsely identified the VanBenschoter log-cabin as being the community-blockhouse of those settlers nearer the Vermilion River; and also falsely attributed Aaron VanBenschoter (Jeremiah's father) as residing here during the War-of-1812. But actually, Aaron (who was wrongly later also referenced as "Orley") didn't arrive until after the War was ended (as accurately stated in the local-histories published pre-1900).

Also, Jeremiah's first large log-cabin "*blockhouse*" which he built prior to the War-of-1812 within present-day Berlin Twp., is sometimes confused with his later residence nearer the Huron River in Huron Twp. --- but which had originally been Capt. Hiram Russell's huge blockhouse-home, before Jeremiah purchased it after the War-of-1812 had ended.

(eastern Townships, continued on the next page)

[Note about a "historical" name for the Huron River: In 1787, when the Moravian minister, Rev. David Zeisberger, came here to establish a Moravian-Indian community here, he wrongly presumed that the Native word "*petquotting*" meant the Huron River. However, "*Petquotting*" (or "pay-kwa-tunk") instead meant a specific ancient Native-American fort or site on a "high round hill" with a view of Lake Erie, (and about 10 miles distant from where he established his brief and primitive village of 1787-1791, named 'New Salem', northerly of later-day Milan Ohio). (See various contemporaneous manuscripts at the Moravian Archives, in Bethlehem, PA.)]

-- Civilian militiamen of 'Eldredge', 'Jesup', and 'Black River' Townships --

In 1812, the township of 'Eldredge' (often spelled "Eldridge", but later named Berlin Twp.) is also said to have had a "blockhouse" log-cabin (built and occupied by John Hoak and his family). But because it was apparently on the western outskirts of this township, therefore it also was in the wrong direction to be the community blockhouse for most of the other settlers in this township -- so their designated safe-haven is not certain. 'Eldredge' Twp. probably had its own separate local-militia company, with these possible militiamen:

• **Nathaniel BURDUE** and his sons **John** and **William** • **John DUNBAR** • **Isaiah DUNBAR**
• **Othniel FIELDS** • **Wm. FITZGERALD** • **Aaron FOX** • **Henry HOAK** • **John HOAK**
• **Mr. HUBBARD** • **Josiah KILBOURNE** • **Orsamus KELLOGG** • **John LAUGHLIN**
• **John LAYLIN Sr.** (and his son **John Jr.**) • **Thomas MIDDLETON** • **George MILLER**
• **Daniel MINGUS*** and **Jacob MINGUS** (the oldest sons of Hieronymus) • **Moses OLMSTEAD**
• **Perez STARR** • **Thomas STARR** • **John THOMPSON** • **Lazarus YOUNG.**

(those being all the known male heads-of-households within the former boundaries of 'Eldredge' Twp., plus the four known families living barely within northern Townsend Twp. in 1812).

[Technically, most of those men were probably 'mustered' into Capt. Hiram Russell's Company.]

*- In late-Sept. 1812, (civilians) Jacob and Daniel Mingus accompanied the Ohio Militia troops to the Peninsula, and Daniel was killed in the 'Skirmish' there. Jacob had carried his wounded and dying brother into a cabin refuge there. (Daniel's dead body was buried under that cabin's floor. Records don't indicate if his remains were ever re-interred elsewhere.)

Daniel Mingus was born circa-1780, so he might have left a widow, and possibly children.

Some decades-later documents indicate that several residents from "Eldredge" Twp. (and etc.) were members of "*Capt. Sprague's Huron Rangers*". A careful preponderance of all evidence, suggests that these "*Huron Rangers*" mostly consisted of the local younger boys --- the ones too young to join the adult 'Companies'. (Therefore, "Huron Rangers" seems to have been the boys' nickname for their own 'unit'.)
[And, "Capt. Jonathan Sprague" – the "ex-Canadian" of Huron Twp. – was not yet officially an 'American' citizen.
In fact, evidence suggests that very shortly after the war, he again relocated to Canada (near Burgessville).]

'Jesup' Twp. (often spelled "Jessup", but renamed 'Florence' Twp.) had its own designated public blockhouse, built by the community; and it was occupied by the widow Clark and her family, (reportedly being constructed upon this Clark family's farm).

If this sparsely settled township had its own separate militia-company, George Brooks (the son-in-law of the widow Clark), might have been its captain, or perhaps one of the other members of that same Brooks family. (All of the Brooks men were credited as being expert marksmen.) Potentially, in April of 1812, the civilian militiamen of this township, were: • **Eli S. BARNUM** • **Charles BETTS** • **John BROOKS Sr.**, and his sons, **John Jr.**, **Joseph**, and **George** • **Town CLARK** (oldest son of widow Clark) • **Eli JUDSON** • **Stephen MEEKER** • **Ezra SPRAGUE.** (those being all the known adult males within 'Jesup' Twp. in year 1812; and possibly also **Joseph SEARS** and **John WILSON**).

'Black River' Twp. (although in 1812 this township was still officially known only as "Town no. 7 in Range 18") was almost entirely within the original 'Huron County' geographical boundaries throughout the War-of-1812; therefore, nearly all of its residents may have been directly associated with the 'Huron County' local-militia training, despite that they were simultaneously under the legal-jurisdiction of the "Dover township" Judicial-District (see the Appendix). And, because they were physical residents of 'Huron County', they were presumably also allowed the same exemption from collective enrollment into an official military-company, after declaration of war.

Their designated community-blockhouse, (on the west side of the mouth of the Black River), was the residence, tavern and inn of John S. Reid.

The civilian militiamen in this sparsely populated "Town no. 7 in Range 18" (these being all of the known local adult males in 1812) potentially were:

• **Aretus GILLMORE** • **Edmund GILLMORE** • **Orrin GILLMORE** • **Quartus GILLMORE**
• **Andrew KELSO** • **George KELSO** • **Ralph LYON** • **Daniel PERRY** • **Nathan PERRY, Senior**[*]
• **Joseph QUIGLEY** • **William MARTIN** • **John S. REID** • **Jonathan SEELYE** • **Jacob SHUPE**

(At least half of those men were members of Capt. Joseph Quigley's Company, in late-August 1812; see next page.) [*- attributed by their local-D.A.R. to have been a Rev.War soldier (but needs cautious re-verification).]

{ See the final page for additional historical names for the Black River,
(including a name which later historians have erroneously attached to it). }

CAPT. JOSEPH QUIGLEY'S COMPANY.

Capt. Joseph Quigley's Company was said to have been first formed shortly after Hull had surrendered his American troops at Detroit, to the British (on Aug. 16, 1812).

The local settlers in 'Huron County' had already begun to slowly evacuate their farms after the declaration of War, in June. But when the news of Hull's surrender arrived, it created immediate urgency to vacate this area. Some of the settlers had not yet even received that news, when they were caught by surprise by the British ships landing on the shores of 'Huron County'. [The instant panic which ensued from that false alarm, is detailed on the separate page about "Fort Liberty".] But after the true identity of the half-naked passengers on those British ships, was discovered, some of the fleeing families returned, to quickly finish loading their wagons. Afterward, many of these families headed eastwardly along the Lake shore. F.W. Fowler later described the formation of Capt. Joseph Quigley's Company, which occurred about Aug. 22, 1812:

"At Black River, [the arriving settlers] had so much increased in number, it was concluded to have a council to consider what steps were most desirable to be taken to protect our lives and our property. It was proposed to form a 'company', and return to Huron [Twp.], as a frontier guard, until troops could be sent to our relief. The question then passed around — who would go? All replied at once — we will all be enrolled. [However,] A proper number were designated to accompany the families to places of safety in the interior. The rest, to the number of between forty and fifty, enrolled themselves in the volunteer company."

After arriving back to the Huron River area, some of this Company took up their post of protecting a large store-house of supplies that had been intended for the U.S. army troops at Detroit. And about that same time, Frederick Falley had arrived to the Huron River with a large herd of cattle. (see next page)

Shortly later, the Ohio Militia troops began to arrive to the area; and finally, Gen. Simon Perkins arrived with more forces. Afterward (as per Fowler): **"the General permitted Capt. Quigley to disband his company"...."This was on condition that we would still be subject to his call in case of necessity. Thus we went to our own homes, to take care of, and protect our own property."** (According to Fowler, that included protecting their own properties from the incoming Ohio troops, who took great liberties with any settler's possessions which weren't secured, in the many vacated pioneer cabins.)

However, that "disbandment" (actually merely a 'dispersal' of these non-enlisted men) by Gen. Perkins, wasn't the end of the involvement of these (civilian) militiamen. (The rest of their story is continued under the 'Skirmish on the Peninsula' page.)

Here is a partial (and tentative) list of some of the "40 to 50" (civilian) militiamen in
CAPT. JOSEPH QUIGLEY'S COMPANY:

- **David BARRETT**[?, or **Dan'l Perry**?], Lieutenant
- **Quartus GILLMORE**, Orderly Sergeant
- **Orrin GILLMORE**, 1st Corporal
- **Frederick W. FOWLER**, drummer.

And also (tentatively):

- **Eli BOND**
- **Jonathan BROOKS**
- **Patrick C ____**
- **Amos? CLARK**
- **Peter D ____**
- **Elkanah DANIELS**
- **Mr. (Cyrus?) DOWNING**
- **Frederick FALLEY**
- **David GUTHRIE**
- **James GUTHRIE**
- **? L. GUTHRIE**
- **John JORDAN**
- **George KELSO**
- **Ira LAMPSON**
- **Jacob LOSTATTER**
- **Ralph LYON**
- **Daniel MINGUS**
- **Benjamin MINGUS**
- **Samuel PETTINGILL**
- **J. PUTNAM?**
- **John "SHATS"(SHERARTS?)**
- **Tinker R. SMITH**
- **Mr. VanDUSEN**
- **Timothy WALLACE**
- **Jabez WRIGHT.**

{That list is from the pension-application of F.W. Fowler's widow, and it was apparently according to the much later recollections of Joseph Quigley, himself --- and that list also says: "from the lapse of time and having no record evidence to refer to, he [Quigley] is not able to state" with certainty.

But perhaps a complete and accurate list might still be available in Congressional records, or among the thousands of Rep. John Sherman's (or etc.) 'papers' at the Library of Congress:

"First session of the 35th Congress; Monday, Jan 4, 1858; Mr. John Sherman introduced a bill (H. R. 34) granting to the officers, musicians, and privates of Captain Joseph Quigley's company of Ohio militia, in the war of 1812, each 160 acres of land; which was read a first and second time, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands."

And also: *"Friday May 18, 1860; introduced bill H. R. 722."*}

[But note that those two Congressional 'bills' both seem to have never 'passed'.]

-- Question: How do you quickly hide a large herd of cattle? --

-- Answer: In Ohio's Black Swamp!

This event began near Chillicothe, Ohio, where a herd of about 250 cattle started on a nearly 200-mile journey northward. The cattle, which were intended as food for Hull's soldiers in Detroit, had been purchased in the Chillicothe area, by army supply-contractor "Major" Frederick Falley (of local 'Patterson' Twp.) and his business-partner, Eli Bond. Falley was personally overseeing the cattle-drive, and was accompanied by the mounted-horsemen of the "Chillicothe Guards" (the Ohio military-company of Capt. Henry Brush) to ensure its safe arrival to Detroit.

The herd, and its herders, had nearly finished the long journey when they arrived to the River Raisin in Michigan Territory, just prior to August 17, 1812. But before they could continue on the last several miles to Detroit, some British soldiers showed up at their encampment, waving a flag-of-truce. The British soldiers informed the camp's officers that General Hull had surrendered the city of Detroit to the British army on the 16th; and that the terms of Hull's surrender also required the immediate surrender of this camp, and also all of their military supplies (including the cattle).

But the U.S. army officers at the River Raisin did not believe the orders; they thought that it was merely a trick to gain their surrender (and the cattle) without a fight, so they put the British soldiers under guard for the night, until their orders could be verified.

Most of the encamping American soldiers didn't wait to be forced to surrender; and while the British soldiers were still detained, many of the American troops made their escape. In Falley's own words: ***"they flew in all directions -- some climbing over the piquets of the stockade -- and others made the best way they could"..."losing their shoes, packs, and some even flung away their arms and ammunition, and equipments -- some stealing any horse they could, and rode off at full pace."***

Falley instead used that same opportunity (while the British were held inside, under guard) to try to prevent the British from confiscating the cattle. He was able to convince a few of the soldiers (including several men of Col. John Campbell's Company) to help him, and they began herding the cattle back south to the "Miami of the Lakes" (Maumee River). The next part of the story is best told by local-militiaman F.W. Fowler:

"They succeeded in getting them back across the Maumee River, and then hastily drove the cattle into the swamp, some distance beyond the River.

As good luck would have it, a heavy thunderstorm of hail and rain immediately followed their crossing of the River -- which completely obliterated the tracks of the drove. No signs of the crossing of the cattle were to be seen at the water's edge."

"The British had dispatched a band of soldiers and Indians to intercept them, and they arrived at the Maumee about a mere three hours after the cattle had re-crossed that River. They made enquiry about the cattle, of Amos Spafford, who resided near the crossing. He told them that the cattle were driven across the River three days before. Discovering no evidence of fresh tracks, or signs of the movement of cattle, entire credibility was given to the account of Maj. Spafford; and without further search, the British squad returned to Detroit."

Spafford had probably also cleverly misdirected the British into believing that the herd had continued heading south, in the same direction the cattle had originally come.

But of course, Falley had instead herded them east, deep into the Black Swamp, knowing that once he entered it, there would be no tracks afterward, for the British to follow anyway.

In addition, Falley knew that rather than going all the way back to Chillicothe, he would only have to drive them a fraction of the distance to 'Huron County'.

So, after the risk of interception had passed, Falley drove the herd toward the driest possible route for the 40 mile trek through the Black Swamp to 'Huron County'; and finally arrived at the Huron River*, apparently without further incident.

Within a couple of weeks, Gen. Perkins' troops arrived and took possession of the cattle, for future food for Perkin's own Ohio soldiers.

[*-The Huron River was already known by that exact name, by 1754; but see the final page for another name for the Huron River (but which later historians erroneously attached to the Black River).]

FORT AVERY, and FORT HURON ("*Fort Nonsense*").

Fort Avery (initially called "*Camp Avery*") was a War-of-1812 military encampment, stockade, and blockhouse, built by the soldiers of the Ohio Militia. It was only utilized by the military for a few months, late in the year 1812. The actual construction of Fort Avery did not begin until mid-Sept. 1812; and the Ohio military troops weren't transferred to it, from the lake-shore camp of Fort Huron, until about Sept. 20, 1812.

About two weeks prior to Sept. 15, 1812, Gen. Perkins and his troops had already started occupying "*Camp Huron*" near the lake-shore, a few miles east of the Huron River.

The fort there, Fort Huron, was nearly completed, when some other military strategists decided that the fort's location was too very near Lake Erie, and therefore in a somewhat exposed position. (The fort itself was probably reasonably distant from the shore --- but the campfires of the hundreds of troops encamped around the fort, would have been easily spotted from the enemy's boats on Lake Erie.) The vulnerabilities of that fort's location ultimately caused it to be nick-named "*Fort Nonsense*".

On the 9th of Sept., Maj. Gen. Elijah Wadsworth sent a military memo urging Gen. Simon Perkins to move his entire encampment inland; but Perkin's replied that he didn't have the man-power or resources to build a new fort. Perkins also felt that his present lakeshore location was still very adequate. And so, the military troops continued to operate out of "*Camp Huron*"/Fort Huron.

But about the 15th of Sept., Perkins received another memo demanding that he move his troops to a new location along the Huron River, several miles inland. So construction of Fort Avery was finally begun by the 17th of Sept.; and several units of troops began encamping nearby it by Sept. 20th. Perkins had put Col. Richard Hayes in charge of building Fort Avery (and also a new auxiliary blockhouse near the River's mouth).

Col. Hayes remained in charge of its operations from late-Sept. until about October 2nd; but Perkins, himself, had gone to Cleveland on military business, and so he was not personally stationed at Fort Avery until immediately after the 'Skirmish on the Peninsula'. During the two months after the 'Skirmish', Perkins commanded from Fort Avery while mobilizing his troops westward. By Jan., 1813, all of these troops had left Fort Avery. (And, this fort was not conveniently located near enough to any of the pioneer-settlements, for it to be of much use as their emergency refuge. The settlers had already built their own local-blockhouses for their own protection, as noted on the prior pages.) So, during the remainder of the War-of-1812, the vacated blockhouse was mainly used as a storage barn by the renter-occupant of the farm. (And immediately after the war, the blockhouse structure was converted into a house for Ebenezer Merry, the original owner of the farm.)

Unfortunately, Fort Avery's location was later slightly misreported by 20th-century historians. Fort Avery was located on the east bank of the Huron River, and within Milan Twp. (formerly named 'Avery' Twp.; which is why this encampment was officially named "*Camp Avery*" by the military). Its exact location was along present-day River Road, and a short distance *south* of the present Ohio Turnpike.

Prior to year 1900, it was well-understood that Fort Avery was built upon the farm owned by Ebenezer Merry in 1812. However, during the early-1900s, a later owner of a farm about a mile north of there, was able to convince 20th-century historians, (including members of the local-D.A.R.), that his own farm was the site of the 1812 fort.

As a result, the inscription on the bronze-plaque which the local-D.A.R. sponsored for the "Camp Avery" 1930 memorial-monument (on present River Road, and just south of present Mason Road), wrongly indicates that Fort Avery was "*one-fourth mile*" from that marker --- but instead the fort was actually over a mile from that memorial-marker site. (Also, that 1930 plaque erroneously dates the fort as built in year "1811".)

[That same bronze-plaque also erroneously indicated that the "*old county-seat*" village was in existence at same the time as Fort Avery. (See the pages, here, about the "old county-seat", etc.)]

{The above-mentioned military memos are preserved at the Western Reserve Historical Society (and many were transcribed and published in the W.R.H.S. '*Tracts*' series, etc.).}

'SKIRMISH ON THE PENINSULA'

Several eye-witness accounts accurately detail the the two consecutive battles on the Danbury/Marblehead Peninsula on the day of Sept. 29th, 1812. And the general story about this 'Skirmish' has been retold many times by past historians, from the point-of-view of the Ohio military troops, (including J.R. Giddings, who merely witnessed from a rowboat offshore).

But local-resident F.W. Fowler's account is especially relevant here, because it includes facts which were overlooked in "official" military versions.

As per Fowler: ***"On the 28th day of September, our spies discovered Indians on the peninsula, across Sandusky Bay. When that news reached Camp [Avery], the drums beat for volunteers to go in pursuit of the enemy. About a hundred turned out for the expedition. The greater number of them were inhabitants of the neighborhood."***

The official military records did not record the true number of these non-enlisted inhabitants of the neighborhood who participated in the 'Skirmish', other than those local residents who were either killed (Alexander Mason, Daniel Mingus, Valentine Ramsdell), or wounded (Moses Eldred, Ezra Lee, Joseph Ramsdell).

Fowler also gives details about the later rescue of the dozens of men who took refuge in a cabin during the second battle, that day --- details also omitted in most other accounts.

As mentioned on a prior page, Gen. Simon Perkins was away on business at the time of the 'Skirmish'. But Col. Richard Hayes, who had been left in charge of Fort Avery, had become incapacitated by severe illness --- leaving Lieut. Benjamin Allen mainly in command of the Fort.

According to Lieut. Allen : ***"an express [messenger] returned [from the Peninsula, on the night of Sept. 29th], and brought news"...."that about forty men were left on the Peninsula either dead or surrounded by Indians."***

But, due to various circumstances, the remaining officers at Fort Avery delayed sending any Ohio troops to rescue the stranded men. Instead, they merely sent Fort Avery's chaplain, Jonathan Leslie, to carry the news (on horseback) to Wadsworth's headquarters.

And, as per Fowler: ***"an express [Rev. J. Leslie], the same night, started for Cleveland, with the news. The messenger reached Black River by the next morning; and... he related the whole matter to John S. Reed [Reid] and Captain Quigley."***

And immediately after Quigley and Reid heard the news that ***"no one had been sent from the Camp to learn the fate of those left fighting off the savages"***, they ***"instantly started off for the field of battle."*** And every local man they passed along the way, joined the rescue. ***"On arriving at the mouth of Huron River, they there met Amos Spafford, from Maumee, removing his family to Cleveland in two boats. On request of Reed [Reid] and Quigley, Mr. Spafford at once unloaded his boats on the beach. It was now in the evening, and the lake was smooth. All taking to the boats, they gained the Peninsula in the vicinity of Bull's Island, after midnight. Secreting themselves as well as possible, they waited for day light. At dawn of day, they made for the house, where they found, to the joy of their anxious hearts, thirty-seven of our brave men, all alive — though weak from want of food. They had eaten nothing[*] for three days."*** [*- other than watermelon and cooked pumpkin, according to Sgt. James Root, one of the Ohio soldiers also trapped in that cabin.]

Fowler's version of that rescue is corroborated by eye-witness Sgt. James Root: ***"Those in the cabin stayed there two nights and one day, when a boat brought up from Black River by Mssrs. Perry [Nathan Sr.?] and Read [John S. Reid], two old settlers, came and took us off and carried us to Camp Huron."*** [Fowler's details were probably more accurate, that the boats instead were loaned by Amos Spafford (who is also mentioned on a prior page).]

And Lieut. Benjamin Allen additionally confirms that the rescue crew also consisted of at least ***"fourteen volunteers among the inhabitants, who had either friends or connections among the men [trapped in the cabin] on the Peninsula."***

Unfortunately, almost none of those many additional non-enlisted inhabitants of the neighborhood, involved in the 'Skirmish' (nor the additional ones in the later rescue) were officially acknowledged by the military, to have participated. (However, Rep. John Sherman later made efforts to remedy the military's oversight.) **Those local non-enlisted volunteers** (who, according to F.W. Fowler, may have even out-numbered the *enlisted, non-local, Ohio soldiers*, that day) **individually deserve special honor and credit, in the history of this area.**

Who "poisoned the beef" at "Fort Sandusky"? (later-day Fremont, Ohio)

In July of 1812, Col. John Campbell's Company of the Ohio Militia, from Portage County, were ordered to "Lower Sandusky" (present-day Fremont, Ohio) to assist in building the fortifications there. They arrived by boats to Sandusky Bay and the Danbury Peninsula, and spent the night there in "Parsons' Blockhouse". They proceeded from there, going up the Sandusky River, until they reached their destination.

The rest of the story is best told by Corp. John Harmon, in his own later memoir:

"We saw very few persons here, of whites or Indians, except soldiers.

Our business was to dig a well and build block-houses. We had got a well dug about twenty feet deep, when an Indian was brought there, charged with horse stealing"...

"He was confined some days in our dry well hole, until a council was held with the Indians of Seneca Town, an Indian village several miles up the river, at which they agreed to furnish a good dressed beef for the garrison;

and so our prisoner was released -- and a fat well-dressed heifer was furnished for the garrison, and the stolen horse was returned.

The fresh beef was well relished indeed, after we had been kept on salt pork and bread so long -- but so many of the garrison were soon taken sick, that we suspected the Indians of poisoning the beef."....

"on July 21, orders were received from Gen. Hull, at Detroit, to march there"...

"On July 22, Capt. Campbell started for Portage County, leaving orders for us to make all ready while he was absent.

"On July 29, Capt. Campbell returned"..."About the same time nearly all the garrison were taken sick with diarrhoea and fever. Some were entirely disabled, others were just barely able to walk." "Captain Rowland's company arrived at the fort by boat on Aug. 2, and on the 4th, both companies started by boat down the river, halted at Mrs.

Whittaker's and stayed over night, and remained the next day to attend to the sick, of whom Capt. Campbell and Seth Day were very low."

So, merely based solely upon potential motive and obvious opportunity, those "Indians" who supplied the beef, might indeed have been responsible for the soldiers' illnesses.

However, based upon the time-line exactly as Corporal Harmon presented it, that beef may not have been responsible for the illnesses at all -- especially when considering the nature and prevalence of these same symptoms, at other nearby places during the first settlement years (which began just a few years prior to the War-of-1812).

Nearly every local family was stricken with "the fever and ague" -- which were serious (and sometimes deadly) illnesses previously unfamiliar to them -- and therefore blamed on a variety of different causes. During dry seasons, their cows were blamed for having eaten the wrong vegetation -- causing "poisonous" milk. During wet seasons, the vegetation was blamed for rotting in the swamps -- creating "poisonous" air.

The local swampland probably was indeed partly to blame; but not due to "poisonous air", but instead the mosquitoes. Those soldiers at 'Lower Sandusky' were surrounded by mosquito-infested areas, including the nearby 'Black Swamp'.

And, their symptoms which they blamed on that "poisoned beef" event, were not unique to the soldiers at Fort Sandusky that Summer.

A month later, the incoming troops stationed at Fort Huron (and again later at Fort Avery), were similarly afflicted, from unknown causes. In fact, one of the main concerns of Gen. Perkins, was that so very many of his troops had become quickly incapacitated by illness, very shortly after they arrived here.

Therefore it may never be known if the Native-Americans of that "Indian village" near Fort Sandusky, were truly enemies to the U.S.; but regardless, they ended up being accused of it ---- just like the early pioneers had suspected "bad milk" and "bad air" as being the continual causes of their own illnesses.

[Note: although this "Fort Sandusky" (re-named to *Fort Stephenson*) was many miles west of the geographical boundary-line of 'Huron County', but that area was shortly later included within this County's judicial boundaries, immediately after the War-of-1812. (see Appendix.)

Also note that Fort Sandusky of 1812, was not the same as British Fort Sandusky of 1761-1763, near Sandusky Bay at later-day Venice, Oh. (Nor were either of them located near the circa-1749 French Fort Sandoské, west of later-day Gypsum, Oh., on the Marblehead Peninsula.)]

Other ships with connections to (old) 'Huron County' during the War-of-1812.

Some modern maritime histories have made several errors about a few of the ships on Lake Erie during the War-of-1812, especially in their attribution of the builders of those vessels, and where built.

The 'Cuyahoga Packet'.

Prior to relocating to 'Huron County', David Abbot had resided near the Chagrin River (in the area of later-day Willoughby, Ohio). Circa-1804, Abbot built his own schooner, of "30 or 35 tons" load-capacity, there. According to his son (Benj. W. Abbot): *"He was his own master builder; and the rigging was made, and [also] the sails spun and wove, at home."*

That vessel later became severely damaged; but its hull was salvaged by Capt. Luther Chapin, and rebuilt as the 'Cuyahoga Packet'.

In June of 1812, Capt. Chapin had sailed the 'Cuyahoga Packet' with a load of supplies to the Maumee River, and while there, General Hull (who was on his way to Detroit with his troops, via land) chartered the 'Cuyahoga Packet' to transport some of his sick soldiers to Detroit, via water. Gen. Hull also loaded the 'Cuyahoga Packet' with some military baggage, which included a trunk of Hull's military-orders and army muster-rolls.

Capt. Chapin then proceeded to Detroit -- apparently completely unaware that the U.S. had just declared War -- and when the 'Cuyahoga Packet' was sailing past Malden, Canada, his vessel (and Hull's trunk filled with the army's war plans) were captured by the British.

The 'Miami'.

The captured 'Cuyahoga Packet', according to some sources, was the same ship that the British renamed 'Miami' for their own use in their "Provincial Marine" forces. However, other references say that the Provincial Marine's 'Miami' was actually built as the '*Miami*', at "Miami" (Maumee River) by Capt. Anderson Martin in 1810; and that this '*Miami*' was also captured about the same time as the 'Cuyahoga Packet'. It is unclear which was true, whether the 'Cuyahoga Packet' was also the 'Miami', or if they were two different ships.

The 'Chippawa'.

Capt. Anderson Martin had definitely built a prior vessel, the 'Chippawa*', while he had resided near Chippawa, Canada, circa-1808. (*-alternately pronounced "Chippeway", and therefore spelled "*Chippeway*" in some records). It is also unclear if the 'Chippawa' was captured by the British --- or was of Canadian registry, and so the British instead simply commandeered it for military use. Probably the latter is true. Regardless, the British *Provincial Marine* utilized the 'Chippawa' until it was captured by Perry's fleet in 1813.

The 'Union'.

But more specific to local history, was the fact that Capt. Anderson (alias Andrew) Martin and some of his several brothers (Lent, Samuel, Robert Jr., Budd, Joseph, and John), were known to be in the vicinity of the Bass Islands of Lake Erie, during the War-of-1812, and were also building boats there, on the islands. The brig 'Union' was one of the vessels built there by the Martin brothers. According to one of the first sailors on that ship, the brig 'Union' ***"was modeled, built, owned and [first] commanded by a man named Martin, who had been a house carpenter. She was partially built on Put-in-Bay Island, launched and towed to the mouth of Grand River, Ohio, in 1813."***...

"She was employed at the close of the war, by the U. S. Government, as a transport."

And (per another source) ***"it was difficult to get crews for her on account of a prevailing belief among sailors that she was haunted."***

[Historical note about North Bass Island: Prior to the War-of-1812, this island was still claimed by Great Britain. In fact, its alternate name "St. George's Island" was given to it by Canadian Gov. Simcoe when he visited it circa-1792. But the Connecticut Land Company later attempted to include these islands within the west boundary of the "Western Reserve" of Ohio. The dispute was resolved with the War-of-1812, when North Bass Island was "won" by Ohio. Afterward (by 1824), almost all of the Martin brothers moved onto North Bass Island. But they moved away by circa-1830, to Michigan and Indiana. (Their sister, Mrs. Lydia Cody, the grandmother of "Buffalo Bill" Cody, later lived near Cleveland, Oh.)]

The "new" hunch-stones of "old" 'Huron County'.

A common definition of the word 'hunch', is "an intuitive guess".

Normally, the D.A.R. does not allow "intuitive guesses" to be any part of their requirements for proof of military-service. In fact, there is often an insurmountable process of *proof*, for anyone applying for membership into the D.A.R.; but *hunches* are absolutely not acceptable evidence, to become a member. But, here in the 1920s and 1930s, there seems to have been zero oversight in preventing some local members of the D.A.R., from turning their own military-"hunches", into military-"history" -- not just in their writings, but "hunches" which were inscribed in stone.

The U.S. government made free headstone-markers available to any deceased military-personnel buried without one; which included anyone from the very distant U.S. past, if that person's military-connection was verifiable. And -- because of the high standards of the D.A.R. -- the U.S. military almost implicitly trusted D.A.R. members' research, as proof of any service-member's military record.

These government-supplied headstones resemble true headstones in every way, and were normally intended to precisely mark a soldier's unmarked grave (as is specifically stated upon the government's official application-forms).

In Erie County (etc.), the local-D.A.R. also utilized them by sometimes erecting these "headstones" in places they thought would be an appropriate memorial to each soldier, even if the actual grave-site was unknown. That inevitably caused later historical confusion, because there is no way, now, to visually ascertain which of these commemorative stones truly mark a grave, and which ones do not.

But the far greater problem, is that many of the inscriptions on these 1930's D.A.R.-sponsored "headstones", are incorrect -- apparently due to those D.A.R. members relying on 'hunches'. { Their hunches, and also the graves which these were intended to represent, are based upon local-newspaper items of the 1930s, and the writings of M. Cherry in her 1934 booklet '*Blockhouses and Military Posts of the Firelands*'; and also based upon the official gov. application-forms submitted by the local D.A.R. for each of the following 'memorials'. }

Although some of these errors may seem minor from a casual aspect, but they are significant from a military-honors aspect. The following are a few of these D.A.R.-sponsored memorial-stones, for several men who resided here during the War-of-1812:

- "*Major John Brooks*", "*Bridges' Mass. Reg't*" (erected in 1935 at Cable Rd. Cem.), was intended to represent John Brooks Sr.; but his actual pension-papers show that his highest military-rank was Ensign (not "*Major*"), having served from N.Y. and N.J. (not "*Bridges' Mass. Reg't*"). [This 'stone' may not mark his actual grave. Some records even indicate that his remains are still interred near Chappelle Creek on his pioneer farm in Florence Twp.]

- "*Ezra Lee*", "*Rev. War*", "*1816*" (erected in 1935 at Huron Cemetery), was intended to represent the Ezra Lee who resided on the Danbury Peninsula, and who was wounded in the 'Skirmish on the Peninsula' in Sept., 1812. This 'stone' is inscribed with a death year of "*1816*"; but he actually died circa-1822 (probably on the Peninsula, and likely was buried there, not Huron Twp.). But more importantly: in-depth research (by one of his direct-descendants) indicates that he was born in 1775; therefore *this* Ezra Lee was not a Rev. War Soldier.

- "*Joseph Ramsdell*", "*Rev. War*", "*1815*" (erected circa-1933 at Bloomingville Cem.; apparently not at his actual grave, as per a 1934 D.A.R.-member: "*his children moved to Bloomingville, so we placed his stone in their cemetery-lot*"). His death-year needs verified.

- "*Jonathan Sprague*" "*Rev. War*", "*1828*" (erected in 1937 at Huron Cemetery), was surely intended to represent the Jonathan Sprague, Sr., who was a well-known Rev. War Soldier, and who resided near Bloomingville in Oxford Twp., but who died 1823/1824, and was presumably buried in Bloomingville Cem., not Huron. [There was another, different Jonathan Sprague, Sr., (ex-Canadian) who lived in Huron Twp. for a few years; but the early histories all say that the Rev. soldier was the Jonathan Sprague, Sr., of Bloomingville --- not the one in Huron Twp.]

- Also see the erroneous "*Equilla Puntney*", on the page about the the Sept.7th 'ambush'.

In various local cemeteries, there are additional circa-1930's "D.A.R. memorial-stones" (including other participants in the "*War-of-1812*"). Some of them might mark actual graves, but some do not; and potentially also with varying degrees of inscription accuracy.

APPENDIX

-- The "*old county-seat*" village originally named '*Huron*' village. --

As mentioned on a prior page, the "old county seat" village was 'platted' (on paper) in 1811, but was not inhabited until circa-1814.

The village site was chosen from a portion of the David Abbot farm, and, although the Abbot residence was not included within the village's surveyed boundary, but Abbot allowed the use of his own house to substitute as the first "courthouse". (As a result, the Abbot home, and his entire farm, was nicknamed "*the old county-seat*", even before any village construction began in 1814; and his entire farm retained that nickname even after the village disappeared.)

Frederic W. Fowler was the first actual resident of this village by 1814; and his residence was a prior "Indian chief's cabin" moved from nearby. He also built a tavern, and the jail-house (- he was also the County Deputy-Sheriff).

During 1814-1817, there were still only a very few residents within the actual village. There had been a small schoolhouse built there (or very nearby), which also substituted as the 'courthouse' in 1816, until late-1817 when the true courthouse was functional, (although still "unfinished", inside).

But in 1817, just when the entire site began to have the true appearance of a village, it was decided that a much more suitable location for the "county seat" would be at the intended site for the future village of Norwalk. And so the "old" county-seat village gradually became completely vacated after losing the main purpose for its very existence; and the "unfinished" courthouse structure served its final (and very brief) use as a courthouse, about May 19, 1818. The approximately one-dozen lot-owners of the village were compensated for what had become nearly worthless lots; and by 1820, almost all of them had moved into the newly established villages of "Beatty"(Milan) or Norwalk.

The known (and brief) residents and business-owners of the "old county-seat" village, were: Frederic W. and Eliza FOWLER (tavern, and jail) • Cornelia MASON (residence and boarding-house) • Ichabod MARSHALL (Postmaster, and County Recorder) • Dr. Lyman FAY (physician) • Mr. PARSONS (dry-goods store) • Othniel FIELDS (merchant) • Joseph CAIRNS (merchant) • And also possibly: Richmond RHODES; David W. HINMAN & Co. (merchants) ; and office of Lyman FARWELL, County Sheriff. (Ephraim Quimby and Ebenezer Merry were non-resident village-lot owners.) [Note: the different, nearby area which is presently named '*Avery*', was formerly a village named '*Spears Corners*'.]

In addition to the "*old county-seat*" village of circa-1814, the other earliest pioneer- settler villages of old '*Huron County*', were:

- Bloomingville village, which was also established circa-1814, in the "Pipe Creek settlement" of Oxford Twp. (As mentioned, this village evolved from "Fort Liberty" of 1813.)
- Venice village was established circa-1815, on Sandusky Bay and near the mouth of Cold Creek; and within two years it was the area's largest village, and a thriving ship port.
- Sandusky City (a.k.a. "Portland" village) was begun circa-1816 (but was slow to be established due to land disputes). It was 'platted' upon the vacant "Ogontz place" (the former Native-American "Indian" village of Chief Ogontz which was abandoned before 1811). circa-1838, Sandusky City became the county-seat of newly formed Erie County.

- Milan village was established circa-1817 (but originally named "Beatty", or "Merry's Mills", and renamed Milan by 1821). It was 'platted' upon the vacant site of the 1804 Moravian-Indian village of 'Petquotting', which had been abandoned by the Moravians circa-1809. {A different, earlier (1787), Moravian-Indian crude village, briefly named 'Petquotting', but shortly later named 'New Salem', was located about 3.5 miles north-east of present-day Milan village; but it was abandoned by the Moravians by 1791, although its small primitive cabins were afterward used by transient Native-Americans and a few French-Canadian fur-traders.

And another, former "*petquattunk*" was an ancient 'Indian' fort or site on a "*high round hill*" about 10 miles from later-day Milan village. (source: Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, PA).}

- Norwalk village, also established circa-1817; and which, by 1819, became the "new" county-seat of "old" Huron County (and it continues to be the 'seat' of "new" Huron County).

Other villages established here a few years prior to 1822, were

- New Haven village • Monroe village (Monroeville) • Macksville (renamed Peru village)
- New Jerusalem (was in Huron Twp., but no longer exists. Platted by J.B. Flamand on his farm).
- The later (present-day) Huron village at the Huron River's mouth, was begun circa-1824.

-- The judicial-districts of (old) '**Huron County**', during the War-of-1812 (and after) --

As explained on a prior page, the old meanings and usages of the words "*Town*", and "*Township*", were different than the current meanings. In local, circa-1812, usages, a "*town*" equates to a modern-day 'Township' - but a (circa-1812) "*township*" usually equates to a modern-day 'District'. In addition to the confusion that those wordings caused about the earliest local villages here, but they also often caused historical misunderstandings about the Judicial-Districts of circa-1812 'Huron County'.

[Their prior use of the word "*County*" is also sometimes misunderstood. The word "*County*" could refer to one single geographically-separate area --- or instead to a temporary *judicial-district* which overlapped the prior-established geographical boundary-lines. Apparently the word '*District*' as an official designation, had not yet come into standard use at that time; and which has caused confusion ever since.]

In 1809, 'Huron County' was created* geographically, but it had almost no resident land-owners at that time, so it remained briefly under the legal jurisdiction of the "*Geauga County*" and "*Portage County*" Judicial-Districts; until circa-1810 when it was then transferred to the newly-designated "*Cuyahoga County*" Judicial-District.

[* - the creation of 'Huron County' technically "defuncted" the "*Fire Lands*" designation.]

Also by year 1809, the 31 original "towns" (meaning townships) of 'Huron County' had each been surveyed and individually named (except Portland Twp., named shortly later). The geographic names of these 31 "towns" were assigned by the *Sufferers' Land Company*, circa-1808. (Just prior to their assigned names, these "towns" were known solely by their designation of "*Range and Town Number*". Some legal-records, including taxation and tax-delinquency lists, continued to use only the "*Range and Town Number*" designations, instead of the assigned names.) But even by 1811, each individual "town" still had so very few (or no) residents, that it became more practical to group these "towns" together, into temporary judicial districts, for governing purposes, only. However, for geographical purposes, the 31 "towns", themselves, were intended to permanently retain their same geographical boundary-lines, exactly as surveyed by Almon Ruggles in 1808 (the same boundary lines that nearly all of these same townships retain to present day). Circa-1811, the northeast boundary-line of 'Huron County' was extended to the Black River.

During 1812-1814, the judicial districts (or technically, the sub-districts) of geographical 'Huron County', were legislatively still all under the "*Cuyahoga County*" District.

In 1815, 'Huron County' finally became judicially independent, as its own main District. At that time, in 1815, the original 31 "towns"(Townships) still existed, geographically, but all of them were encompassed by three judicial "*townships*" (Districts): *Vermillion "township"*, *Huron "township"*, and *Wheatsborough "township"*.

Unfortunately, shortly after those judicial sub-districts were first created, some early local record-keepers began to record only the temporary judicial-district names, rather than the proper permanent geographic "*town*"(Township) names. In particular, Portland Twp./Groton Twp./Lyme Twp./Danbury Twp.(etc.) were all recorded (even in some land-deeds) only as "*Wheatsborough*". But actually, these individual townships each still existed geographically; and all of them were encompassed by the "*Wheatsborough township*" Judicial-District. [Note: despite many historians' contradictory assertions, "*Wheatsborough*" was never the original geographic name of Groton Twp. nor of Lyme Twp.; but in fact, by 1809 both of those townships had already been assigned those exact names.]

Also, in some other official records, Avery Twp.(later-named Milan Twp.) seems to be geographically merged with Huron Twp. --- but that probably wasn't the intent of the districting legislation either; because, by 1809, (and until at least 1814), "*Avery Twp.*" was already its own separate "*town*"(township).

Between 1815 through 1825, there was further judicial redistricting of '*Huron County*' -- thereby complicating the later judicial records even more -- but without yet altering any of the 31 original geographical township boundary-lines. (And only a very few of these townships' *original* boundaries have ever been altered: the Huron-Berlin-Vermilion '*fractional*' boundary-lines, and also the northwestern corner of Margaretta Twp.).

The next page describes the judicial-districts as they were, by the end of the War-of-1812.

By 1815, the 3 temporary Judicial-Districts ("*townships*") of (old) 'Huron County', were: (east-to-west)

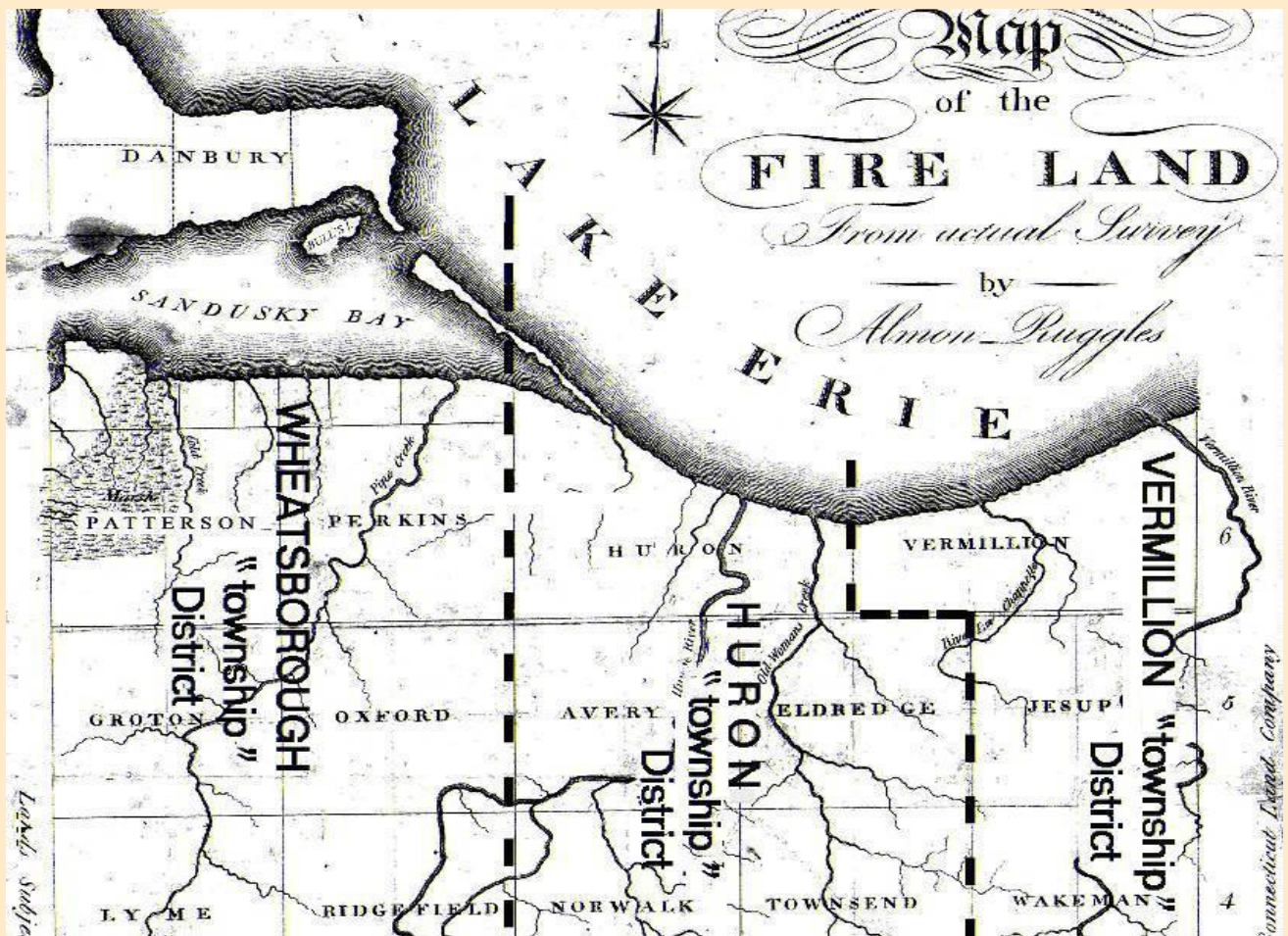
-- "*Vermillion township*" Judicial-District, representing the following geographical "*towns*" in the "20th Range": 'Vermillion' Twp., and 'Jesup' (Florence) Twp. (And technically also the four contiguous townships to their south, but which had no owner-residents before 1815).

Additionally in 1815, the areas of eastern geographical 'Huron County' just west of the Black River in "Range 18"(etc.), were also within that same "*Vermillion*" District (but, during the years 1812-1814, were within the "*Dover township*" Judicial-District).

-- "*Huron township*" Judicial-District, representing these "21st Range" and "22nd Range" geographical "*towns*": 'Huron' Twp., 'Avery' Twp. (Milan Twp.), 'Eldredge' Twp. (Berlin Twp.), and 'Townsend' Twp. (And technically also the several other contiguous townships to their south, but which had no owner-residents before 1815).

-- "*Wheatsborough township*" Judicial-District, representing these geographical "*towns*": all of the townships of the "23rd Range" and "24th Range"(entire west side) of original 'Huron County'. [Also, in Jan., 1815, this District judicially included some areas west of geographical 'Huron County'; but in Aug. 1815, the "*Lower Sandusky township*"(District) was separately formed, but was still under the legal jurisdiction of the 'Huron County' District.]

Below is the "*Fire Land*" map printed by Amos Doolittle in 1809, but newly appended here to demonstrate the above three judicial-districts of (old) **Huron County**. [The lower half of this map has been omitted here, because prior to the War-of-1812, the only pioneer settlers who resided within any of those omitted 15 "*towns*", were a total of about six families living in Sherman Twp., Greenfield Twp., and New Haven Twp. (of the "*Wheatsborough*" district).]



{Note: apparently the *Fire Lands* west boundary-line was never accurately placed, even after a second survey attempt. (Which may also explain the existence of the "Surplus Lands" to the *immediate east* of the *Fire Lands*' east boundary-line.) (Also curious, is that the Conn. Land Co. determined that the adjacent **Lake Erie islands** were **not** to be included within the "Fire Lands".)}

-- " **T-7, R-18** ": the "forgotten" early town(-ship) of (old) 'Huron County' --

Although it was never within the finalized boundaries of the "*Fire Lands*", but by the year 1811, almost all of "Town number 7, Range 18" was a physical part of geographical (old) 'Huron County'. The Williams Brothers' 1879 '*History of Lorain County*', is a bit misleading about this township: "*By the survey of 1806, Black River (Town number Seven in the Eighteenth Range) was divided into 3 parts*....."*It was not drawn as a township, but was used for equalizing purposes.*" But that merely refers specifically to the land distribution allotted to the first land-speculators -- "drawn", meaning selected, as in a lottery.

But for geographical purposes, this "Town"(-ship) retained its originally surveyed full boundaries. It was 'drawn' (meaning mapped) with those same full boundaries, and its entire area continued to be known precisely as "*Town number seven in the eighteenth range*". (It was not named "Black River Twp." until several years later).

{ Some readers may wish to skip the following technical data, and go to the 'Summary', below. }

In 1811, a slight geographical change seems to have been made to this future "*Black River Township*"; it was apparently divided along the River itself -- but with only a very small portion (east of the Black River) transferred to geographical 'Cuyahoga County'. But, all of the rest of this township remained within geographical 'Huron County'. [The reason for any need for that minor *geographical* change that year, is perplexing -- because from 1811-1814, all of physical 'Huron County' was still under the *legal jurisdiction* of the "*Cuyahoga County*" District.]

Due to its extremely sparse population at that time, this whole "Town" initially seems to have judicially been almost entirely under the "*Vermillion township*" District in 1811 -- except the small north-eastern corner of it, which was judicially within the "*Dover township*" District. But that judicial division was very brief, because in March 1812, the rest of "T-7, R-18" was removed from the "*Vermillion*" District, and instead put also under the legal-jurisdiction of that "*Dover township*" District. However, despite that jurisdictional change, nearly all of this "Town number 7, Range 18" (except its small northeastern corner) still physically remained inside the geographical boundaries of 'Huron County'.

The next change occurred by 1815, when most of "T-7, R-18" was judicially removed from the "*Dover township*" District, and added back onto the "*Vermillion township*" District. [And also by 1815, all of geographical 'Huron County' finally became judicially independent from the "*Cuyahoga County*" District. See the prior pages.]

In 1817, most of this "Town(ship) Number 7, Range 18" was finally given its own separate judicial status, and officially named "Black River" -- and therefore, no longer a judicial part of either the "*Vermillion township*" District, nor the intermediate "*Dover township*" District. (Except its eastern corner which remained within 'Cuyahoga County', and which was put under the "*Troy Twp.*" District in 1818.)

[Note: The above judicial changes for this township, simultaneously included "Town(ship) number 6, Range 18" (which was later named Amherst Twp.)]

Summary: From 1811-1823, the pioneer-settlers of almost all of "*Town Number 7, Range 18*" were continual physical residents of 'Huron County' -- despite their having been under the "*Dover township*" Judicial District from 1812 to circa-1814.

But, regardless of their fluctuating judicial affiliations, their geographical inclusion within 'Huron County' remained constant from 1811, until circa-1823, when Lorain County was geographically created. (Lorain Co. became judicially independent in 1824). Therefore, during the years 1811 until 1817, the true physical address of the pioneers who resided just west of the mouth of the Black River, was: "*Town number 7, Range 18, Huron County, Ohio*". And their physical address from circa-1817 until 1823, was: "*Town(ship) of Black River, Huron County, Ohio*".

The more specific address "*Mouth of Black River*" appears on circa-1812 documents, but only because that was the exact name initially assigned to John S. Reid's first U.S. Post-Office there, by 1812. (There was no village there at that time; and most of that area's residents lived near the "Beaver Creek settlement". But John S. Reid and his family resided near the mouth of that river.) [J.S.Reid 'platted' a small village there, circa-1822. In 1834, the village was expanded on the rest of the Reid farm, and officially named 'Black River' village. In 1837 its name was legally changed to "Charleston" --- however, its citizens almost immediately rejected that name, in favor of the former name, ' *Black River* ' village, which also remained its official U.S. P.O. name until 1874, when the village finally became *Lorain City*.]

{ more about the Black River on the next page }

Prior to circa-1807, the Black River was instead known as the Reneshoua River (erroneously spelled "*Reneshona*" on some maps). (It was also called "*La Riviere de la Culiere*" prior to 1764.) It is unknown why the established name, 'Reneshoua' , was abruptly replaced with the name 'Black', before 1807.

However, there was an additional name which later historians attached to the Reneshoua River; but unfortunately a name which was never intended for it.

In 1755, 18-year-old James Smith was captured from Pennsylvania, by Native-American "Indians", and was brought to live among their tribe, in the northern Ohio area.

(The custom of this tribe was to forcefully adopt a young Caucasian male, to replace an 'Indian' warrior who had died.) Smith lived in this area as one of that tribe, until 1759, when he finally found an opportunity to safely return back to his original home.

He kept a journal of his experiences here, and he later wrote a biography about his adventures. Much of his time in northern Ohio was spent near a river which he calls "*Canesadooharie*". Smith, who was well-educated for that time-period, recorded that this river was "*about 8 miles east of Sandusky*" and "*interlocks with the West Branch of the Muskingum*". That corresponds best to the Huron River, which is circa-10 miles east of Sandusky Bay's mouth, and almost directly meets the headwaters of the Black Fork of the Mohican River (the "west branch" of the Muskingum).

One additional detail which Smith recorded about the "*Canesadooharie*", was that it had a "*falls*", "*12 to 15 feet high, and nearly perpendicular*".

But Smith's word, "falls", was eventually seized upon by later historians, as evidence that the "*Canesadooharie*" river of Smith's travels, was instead the Black River, which has two separate and impressive waterfalls in the vicinity of present-day Elyria, Ohio.

More historians added to the confusion, by asserting that the Native-American meaning of that word '*canesadooharie*', was "fresh-water pearls", "black pearl", and even "string of black pearls"; but it is not known what evidence those later historians used to support (or, more likely, invent) those very 'romanticized' translations.

Unfortunately, the 19th-century historians who first theorized that the "*Canesadooharie*" was the Black River, seem to have had almost no real familiarity with the actual physical areas of both of these rivers. And later local-historians simply repeated those earlier theories --- but the earlier historians had carelessly disregarded Smith's many specific details about his own travels here.

Smith had stated that his "*Canesadooharie*" river was "*about 8 miles east of Sandusky*"; however, the Black River is about 30 miles, not "about 8 miles", from Sandusky Bay.

And the two separate waterfalls on the Black River were historically recorded to each have been about 40 feet in height; and absolutely perpendicular (meaning, a directly downward drop) --- therefore very poorly matching Smith's description of one single "falls", "*12 to 15 feet high, and nearly perpendicular*" (or, in other words: high and very steep rapids).

The single "falls" which Smith experienced over a many week period in 1756, were instead probably several miles south or southwest of present-day Norwalk, Ohio. However, by the mid-1800s (and probably even earlier), nature had apparently reduced Smith's "falls" to much smaller 'rapids' (or perhaps had even re-routed the riverbed at that location); resulting in the later inability to recognize and identify the correct site.

But now -- due entirely to the incessant cloning and amplification of the initial errors of a few careless 19th-century historians -- the "*Canesadooharie*" is instead officially assigned as an alternate name for the Black River, rather than for the Huron River.

{ To read Col. James Smith's own narrative, see this same compiler's e-booklet: "*Canesadooharie; or. How Many Historians Does It Take...*" (at archive.org). }

This '*Fire Lands in the War-of-1812*' booklet's compiler (whose direct-ancestors began to settle in old Huron County in 1815) has retired from several decades of transcriptions and volunteer-lookups of this area's early historical records. [Some of the preceding pages are updates to data which that compiler had personally authored and contributed to various websites, including Wikipedia; although the current webpages there ('*Canesadooharie*', '*Petquotting*', etc.), might not exactly reflect the above facts, due to later alterations there, by other Wikipedia contributors.]

>=>=>----->

(more)

JEAN/"JOHN" BAPTISTE FLAMAND's local "memorial markers".

[The recent erecting of a new memorial marker-plaque for J. B. Flamand, has prompted this "addendum"(2017) -- which will perhaps help to clear up some of the inaccuracies presented by *local-historians*, about him.]

His own signature spelling for his surname, was 'FLAMAND'.

However, apparently the other early pioneers, here, had very little familiarity with the French language, etc., (so, naturally, their casual phonetic interpretations of any 'foreign' name spellings were seldom accurate). An early local surveyor initially recorded it as "Flemmon". Eventually, the local citizens entirely 'anglicized' his name to "John B. Fleming".

In 1935, when the local-D.A.R. group decided to honor him with a military* headstone, their application-form had initially, and accurately, recorded his surname as "FLAMAND" -- but unfortunately that application was shortly-later amended to include almost all of its subverted spellings --- resulting in the spelling "FLAMMOND" being inscribed on that D.A.R.-erected "military memorial-marker". (*- Notwithstanding that Flamand was never officially enlisted in the U.S. Military). [21st-Century local-historians have opted for the very subverted spelling "FLEMMOND", for their own newly erected 'Ohio Historical marker'.]

Also, although the local-D.A.R. had ultimately decided to place Flamand's *military-memorial-stone* in Huron village's 'Huron Cemetery' -- however, his actual grave is probably near present-day McMillen Cemetery. In fact, in 1815 he himself 'platted' a small village named "New Jerusalem", there at that same location by the river -- and (based upon the existing plat-map) that village probably even encompassed the current McMillen Cemetery site. However, his village must never have attracted many residents; because within a decade-or-so, it was apparently defunct. [Additionally, note that early documents also seem to indicate that his "Indian trading-post" structure was actually several hundred feet north of the different site of his later house (presumably which he built after the War-of-1812, for his wife and children).]

In regard to his birth-year -- historically he was said to have been born "about 1770"; but that estimate may have been at least 5 years too early (because the 1820 U.S. Fed. census suggests his birth-year as being after 1774).

[And despite the newly-erected '*Ohio Historical marker*' indicating that his birth-year of "1770" was precisely accurate; but 'proof' may still be lacking.]

Perhaps "coincidentally", but: circa-1803, a 'baptism' was recorded by by a Roman-Catholic priest from the River Raisin area of Michigan -- and it states that a boy named "Joseph" (age about 5 yrs.) was the son of a Native-American woman nicknamed "Marie", and "Jean Baptiste Flamand".

Based upon the fact that many of those French-Canadian fur-traders had "married" Native-American women -- therefore it is very possible that the baptismal-record refers to this same man, (perhaps just before he relocated to the Huron River) - even though no other local historical-records mention him as ever having any family prior to permanently settling here circa-1804*. [He is said to have 'officially' married "in 1810", to Elizabeth "Betsey" Pollock (the daughter of Rev.War soldier, Elijah Pollock). They had four known children: Elijah (died in infancy); Elizabeth McCARTY-MILLER (c1813-1876); Jane HATFIELD (c1819-c1850); and Lydia REED-JOHNSON-WILLIAMS-PELTON (1824-1903). (Lydia and her second husband, Joseph Johnson, were still residing on the old Flamand farm alongside the Huron River, until shortly after 1850.)

[*- see the contemporaneous manuscripts at the Moravian Archives, in Bethlehem, Penn., which mention Flamand being here at the Huron River in '1804'.(and etc.)]

[The conclusions presented in this publication have not been simply 'appropriated' from any other person's research, (nor from any "published histories"); but are entirely based upon the decades of personal research (of the original old documents) by the compiler of this booklet.]

{Additional updated information about the earliest pioneer-settlers of Ohio's Lake Erie shore, is available at the Internet Archive.}